# Prince Edward Island
# Department of Agriculture
# Annual Report 1983

# Prince Edward Island
# Department of Agriculture
# Annual Report

For the fiscal year ending March 31, 1983
and Activities Report for the year ending
December 31, 1983

# DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ACTS

Agricultural Chemicals Act

Agricultural Standards Act

Agricultural Products Marketing Act

Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development (PEI) Act

Agrologist Act

Apiary Inspection Act

Artificial Insemination Act

Bang's Disease Eradication Act

Crop Insurance Act

Dairy Producers Act

Dairy Products Act

Division Fence Act

Dog Act

Domestic Animals Act

Farm Implement Act

Federal Dairying Company Act

Field-Root Seeds Zoning Act

Grain Elevators Act

Horned Cattle Purchases Act

Land Development Corporation Act

Livestock Branding or Tatooing Act

Livestock Community Auction Sales Act

Margarine Act

Marketing Act

Milk Act

Mink Protection Act

Natural Products Marketing Act

Plant Disease Eradication Act

Potato Crop Mortgage Act

Potato Lien Act

Potato Production Act

Poultry and Poultry Products Act

Race Horse Inspection Act

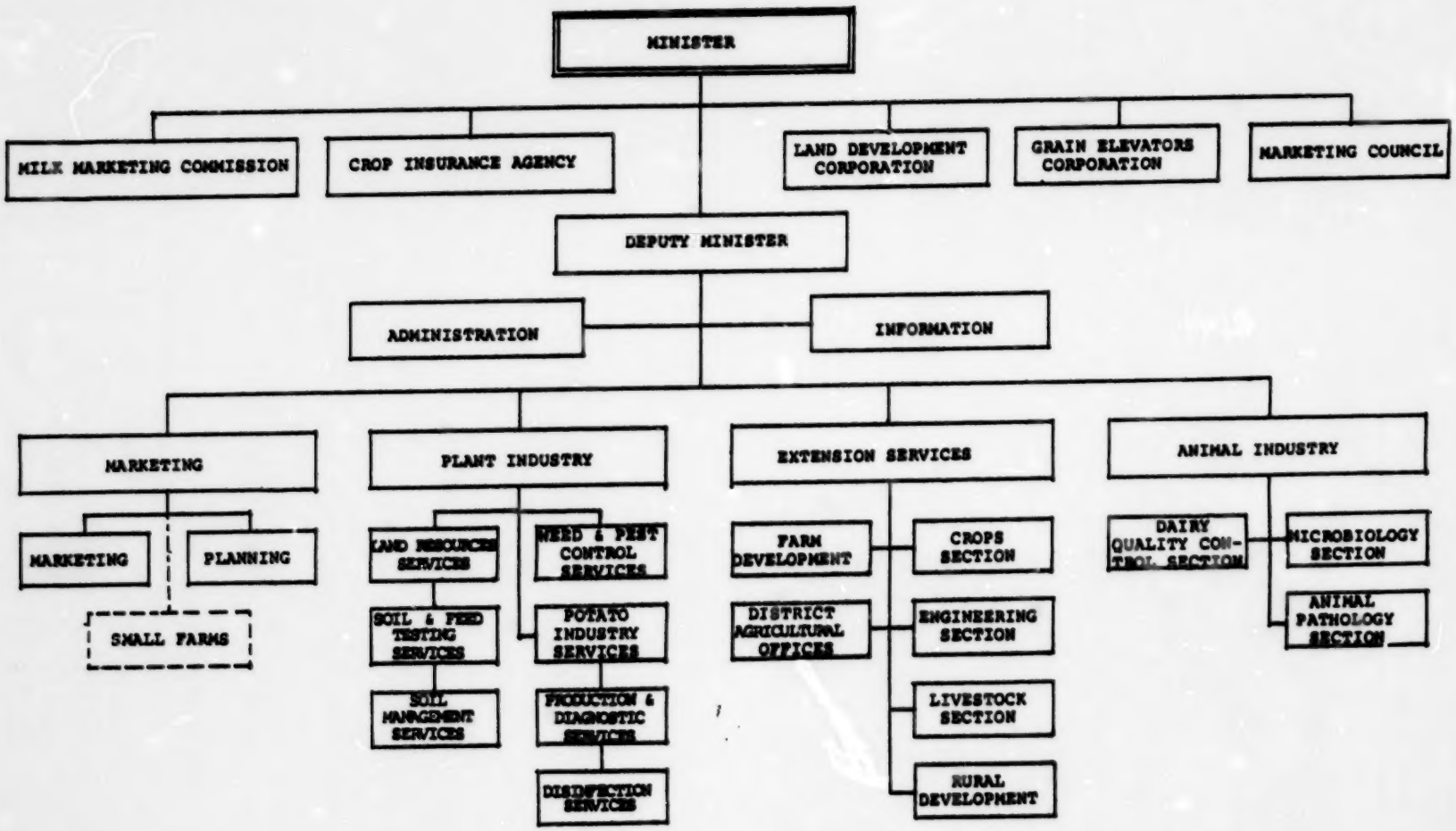
Veterinary Assistance Act

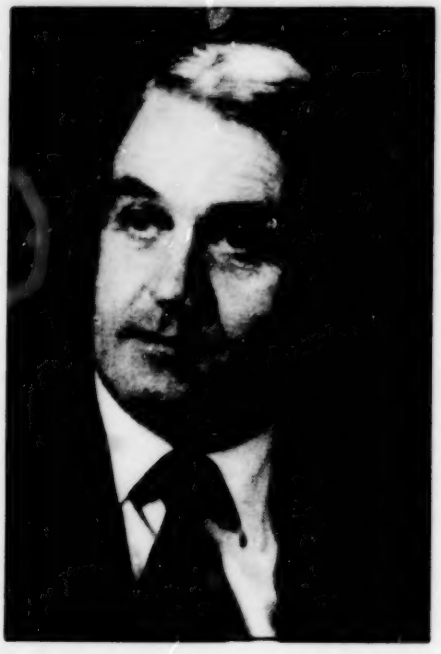
Veterinary Profession Act

Weed Control Act

Women's Institute Act

P.E.I. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE





P.E.I. Department of Agriculture
Charlottetown, 1983

TO THE HONOURABLE JOSEPH AUBIN DOIRON,
LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND

Sir:

I have the honour to submit herewith the Annual Report of the Department of Agriculture comprised of financial statements for the period April 1, 1982, to March 31, 1983, and activities for the calendar year, 1983.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

Prowse Chappell
Minister of Agriculture

To the Honourable Prowse G. Chappell
Minister of Agriculture

Sir:

I am pleased to present the annual report of the Department of Agriculture for the calendar year 1983 and the financial report for the fiscal year 1982-83. Also included are reports of the P.E.I. Milk Commission, P.E.I. Marketing Council and the P.E.I. Women's Institute.

Potato farmers, after a poor year in 1982, were rewarded with a good crop in 1983 and higher prices for that crop which, of course, will spread over into 1984. A great deal of effort was put into the potato industry to assist shippers in securing additional export markets for producers.

During the year, staff were involved in a number of marketing related problems facing the agricultural industry including the negotiations related to the establishment of a new meat packing facility, red meat stabilization discussions and industrial milk marketing problems.

A truck disinfection service was instituted at Wood Islands and Borden and, for the first year, an expanded potato extension program was carried out. Farmers Markets were supported and increased in popularity and an inspection service at livestock sales was started.

The Small Farms Program completed its first year of operation with over 300 small and part-time farmers co-operating in the program. Increased emphasis in the Extension Branch was placed on Farm Financial Management and training programs for farm women. A Maritime Farm Certificate Program was established. Twenty-five young people served close to 80 farmers through the new Agri-Crew Program and close to 1,200 farmers had taken advantage of the Commodity Develoment Incentives Program. The details relating to these and other programs carried out by the Department staff, in co-operation with farmers and farm organizations, are included in the reports of each Branch.

A great deal of effort in 1983 was made by staff through the commodity teams to develop, in cooperation with the industry, proposed plans which are being negotiated with Agriculture Canada in the hopes of a five-year agricultural sector development agreement.

I am sure the report will indicate that the many activities carried out by the staff and the expenditure of funds have contributed significantly to the development of this important industry.

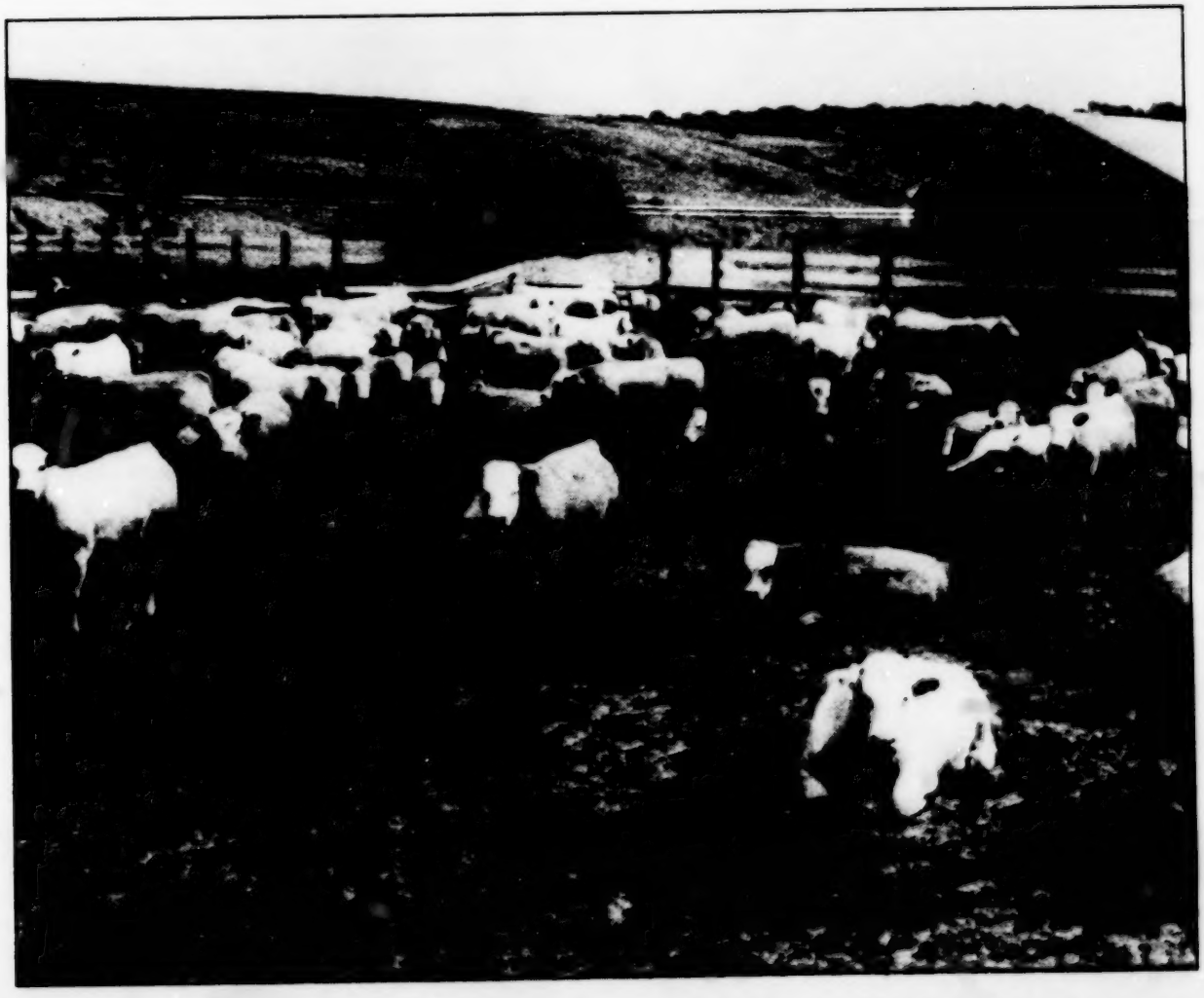
Respectfully submitted,

H. Lloyd Palmer

# 1983
# ANNUAL REPORT

## Index

**Animal Industry Services Branch** ..... 9
Animal Pathology ..... 10
Microbiology ..... 10
Dairy Quality Control ..... 10
**Extension Services Branch** ..... 12
District Agricultural Offices ..... 13
Rural Development ..... 16
Farm Development ..... 20
Livestock Section ..... 21
Crops Section ..... 23
Engineering ..... 27
**Information and Administration** ..... 30
**Marketing Branch** ..... 32
**Marketing Council** ..... 35,50
**Milk Commission** ..... 37
**Plant Industry Services Branch** ..... 39
Potato Industry Services ..... 40
Disease and Weed Control Services ..... 41
Land Management Advisory Services ..... 43
**Women's Institute** ..... 45
**Financial Statements** ..... 47



# Animal Industry Services Branch

*The Animal Industry Services Branch is responsible for the health related productivity of P.E.I. livestock. The Branch operates diagnostic services and provides advisory and technical service for livestock producers and veterinarians. The Branch is responsible for administering veterinary and meat inspection services and for supplying veterinary pathology, veterinary microbiology and disease monitoring services.*

*Nineteen eighty three saw the introduction of livestock inspection by veterinarians to livestock auction sale barns on P.E.I. The Branch is also responsible for Dairy Quality Control and Dairy Microbiology Services. Grants to the P.E.I. Humane Society and P.E.I. Artificial Breeders Association are also administered.*

### 22 Vets Deliver Herd Health And Clinical Services

The Herd Health and Clinical Veterinary Service Programs are delivered to producers by 22 veterinarians located in six veterinary practices. One veterinarian is in Souris, two are in Brudenell, three in Montague, nine are in Charlottetown, four are in Kensington and three in O'Leary. Veterinary services to producers are subsidized to make equitable the veterinary charges regardless of the location of the producer. In addition, the veterinary professional service charges are subsidized. Call charges are subsidized on herd health visits.

In 1983 veterinarians made 5,391 Herd Health visits which was similar to 1982 numbers. They made 17,284 veterinary clinical visits, an increase of approximately 10 per cent.

In addition, the Veterinary Practitioners carried out 1,874 visits to inspect carcasses under the Meat Inspection Program. This includes the introduction in 1983 of antemortem slaughter inspection of animals at some of the larger abbatoirs. Total carcasses inspected included 11,547 beef, 4,600 pork and 1,347 lambs.

### Disease Monitoring Services Provide First Line Defense

The swine inspection and quarantine stations continue to provide the first line of defense against the introduction of off Island diseases (Hemophilus pleuropneumonia) into P.E.I. swine. There are two inspection stations, one each at Caribou, N.S. and Cape Tormentine, N.B. and three quarantine stations in the province.

Herd certifications for minimal disease swine operations and disease investigations in all species by department veterinarians in consultation with laboratory personnel and field veterinarians provide constant surveillance of disease prevalence on P.E.I.

### Veterinary Pathology Laboratory Sees Increased Diagnoses

The Veterinary Pathology Laboratory received 4,610 consignments for diagnoses in 1983, an increase of 8 per cent compared to the previous year. There were increases in bovine — 11 per cent, canine — 19 per cent, porcine — 17 per cent and equine — 8 per cent and slight decreases in submissions of other species.

Highlights according to diagnoses were: Enzootic Abortion in one flock of sheep, Coccidiosis in geese (goslings), Johne's Disease, Supperative Meningoencephalitis in pigs, Aspergilliosis in chickens, turkeys and a sea gull and Hitomoniasis in turkeys and a peacock.

### Veterinary Microbiology Laboratory Work Up 10 Per Cent

The Veterinary Microbiology laboratory processed 5,653 diagnostic specimens in 1983 which is an increase of 10 per cent over 1982. Microbiology isolates were much the same as in previous years. A few of the more unusual pathogens were: Hemophilus sommus, Trichophyton verrucosum, Nocardia and Listeria species.

As a function of dairy quality control and productivity, the mirobiology laboratory processed 13,012 mastitis specimens, 7,704 somatic cell specimens and 18,255 mastitis specimens, 7,704 somatic cell specimens and 18,255 quality control specimens.

In June of 1983 the laboratory embarked on a quality control check of the somatic cell counting methodology. Some problems in sampling were recognized and the changes that were implemented resulted in a significant drop in the numbers of bulk milk tank samples over the 800,000 cell level.

### Dairy Quality Control Laboratory At Work

Regulations pertaining to the P.E.I. Milk Commission were expanded to encompass UHT milk. The P.E.I. Margarine Act was amended to legalize manufacture and sale of margarine-butter blends, while the Dairy Product Act underwent housekeeping and terminology changes.

Total milk production from January - October, 1983 was approximately 84.4 million litres, which was a decrease of approximately 13 per cent over a similar period last year. This was measured as the future of producer shipments to plants. Of this 84.4 million litres, 11.0 million litres are considered as Fluid sales (Class I producer's production sold as fluid milk in Province). This does not include fluid producer surplus to the fluid market sold as industrial milk which is included in the total Industrial milk production. Of the remainder, 66.9 million litres is considered as Industrial milk shipments, and 6.5 million litres are considered as cream shipments (in milk equivalents).

In P.E.I. there are 944 milk producers which is a decrease of 3.3 per cent from 1982. This decrease is attributable to attrition in the cream industry. Of the 944 producers; 140 are Class I producers (Fluid), 501 are Industrial producers, and 303 are cream producers.

Creamery butter production (January-October, 1983) was 1.193 million kilograms which is relatively unchanged from last year.

Weight certificates were issued for 65.90 thousand kilograms of skim milk powder.

Cheddar cheese production which decreased by approximately 3.7 per cent over a similar period last year (January-October) amounted to 2.2 million litres while whey butter production amounted to 62.5 thousand kilograms, a 14 per cent increase over the previous year

During 1983, 14 Dairy Processing Plants, 7 Fluid Plants, 5 Creameries, and 2 Industrial plants were licensed. The Department of Health and the P.E.I. Milk Marketing Commission are responsible for licensing Fluid Plants while the Department of Agriculture issues a license to Manufacture Plants.

Provincial Dairy staff, in cooperation with Federal Dairy Division officials conducted in-depth inspections on all dairy processing plants in the province.

The Dairy Lab analyzes all Industrial and Class I producers milk samples for payment basis. Industrial producers are tested twice monthly; Class I producers samples are tested once per week. During 1983 the Dairy Lab analyzed 65,837 samples for butterfat and protein, an 11 per cent decrease from the previous year.

During the year, 10,108 samples were processed for bacterial count. All industrial milk samples which do not meet Grade A standards (less than 300,000 bacteria/ml) are rechecked. Approximately 2.3 per cent of the samples submitted required rechecks while approximately 1.4 per cent of Class I producers samples exceeded the regulation of 100,000 bacteria/ml on the initial test.

As reported by the Microbiology Section, all producer samples submitted to the laboratory were analyzed for antibiotic inhibitors by the Disc Assay Method. Adulteration testing was performed on 7,800 samples during the year.

All Class I producers had a farm inspection carried out on their premises initially during the first 3 months of the year, and follow-up inspection has been completed on all of these producers. The follow-up inspection is conducted to determine if the recommendations of the initial inspection have been carried out.

# Extension Services Branch

*The Extension Services Branch contributes to the development of agriculture in Prince Edward Island by:*

1. *providing technical information and skills training on farm production, management and marketing;*
2. *providing management programs and services and individual farm and home management counselling to farm families to assist them in making the best use of finances and other resources to improve their net income and the productivity and efficiency of their farm operations;*
3. *assisting youth and farm organizations to increase the effectiveness of their programs and the leadership skills of their executive and members;*
4. *implementing agricultural assistance programs and policies to encourage the development and use of quality livestock and cropping programs;*
5. *implementing the Commodity Development Incentive Program, on behalf of the Department.*

The Extension Services Branch consists of a team effort between specialized extension resource groups — i.e. Crops, Engineering, Livestock and Rural Development and the District Agricultural Offices in West Prince, Summerside, Souris, Charlottetown and Montague.

In addition, the Farm Development Section provides the administration and coordinating function for the Federal-Provincial Commodity Development Incentive Program. Decision making for the capital grants program is provided by the Federal and Provincial Governments through the C.D.I.P. Sub-Committee, Appeals Committee and Agricultural Management Committee.

### Program Direction

Three directions were of increasing importance in Extension Branch activities in 1983 and will be emphasized in future initiatives and program development.

a) The organization of specific programs and the increasing involvement of farm women in agricultural conferences, events, organizations, meetings, etc. on topics and concerns such as finance and resource management, promotion, marketing and farm skills training;

b) Farm Financial management is becoming of increasing importance to all farm families. In 1983 the Extension Branch initiated farm management training programs based on commodity cost-of-production courses and individual counselling. This emphasis on costs, returns and financial management involves district management and specialist staff in a combined effort to focus all extension programs on improved financial management of each commodity.

c) Crop, engineering and livestock programs increasingly reflect the need for soil and energy conservation and management. Farm families are rapidly becoming aware of the availability of information and the need, when planning, to be concerned with these issues in preserving land for future use and in managing and lowering the costs of production of agricultural products through the efficient use of chemicals, fertilizers and other forms of energy in the production, handling and storage of farm products.

## District Agricultural Offices Extension Services

Five District Agricultural offices with staff in O'Leary, Summerside, Charlottetown, Souris and Montague deliver production, management services and financial assistance programs to farm families in all areas of the province.

### Mass Media Used

To publicize production and management information and extension events such as courses, workshops, farm meetings, etc. district staff contributed to departmental radio programs, and Cornerpost on a regular basis.

### Farm Management Emphasized

Considerable staff time was devoted to getting various levels of approval for the purchase of three microcomputers in 1983 as the basis for cost of production, farm business management and word processing work in the future. By the end of the year, approval for the purchase of three microcomputers had been obtained along with related printers, software, etc. These will be used by the West Prince and Charlottetown District Agricultural Offices and the Crop, Livestock and Engineering Specialists.

Computer-related information programs included a workshop for dealers that attracted 30 people and several articles in Cornerpost on the application of computers to farm management. Several staff members attended courses and, as well, the use of introduction of computers was dealt with in depth at the staff conference.

A computer fair with dealers demonstrating their computer systems was held in the fall with approximately 50 farmers in attendance.

An Agricultural Production Management Program was developed by staff of the Crops Section combining all crop production records including fertility, rotations, chemical use, costs of production, etc.

### Cost-of-Production Studies Underway

The responsibility for cost of production work was transferred to the Extension Services Branch in 1983, from the Marketing Branch. This activity will be the responsibility of the Rural Development Supervisor. As well, with the establishment of the Crop Production Management Specialist position, a Potato Case Study and Crop Cost-of-Production and Enterprise Analysis were begun.

### Farm Financial Management The Key

Recognizing that the financial management of a farm is a major key to success for the farm family, the groundwork for a major program was laid in 1983, with a training program involving all Extension Branch staff.

As a follow-up, four staff committees were set up to develop cost-of-production case studies as the basis for courses in 1984, under the leadership of the staff of the Summerside District Office. Case studies finalized in 1983 were dairy, beef, potatoes and swine.

The Farm Financial Management Program consists of a basic course which is followed up by other production and management courses. Each course is specialized and designed for the producers of one commodity only i.e. dairy, or potatoes. On-farm counselling and follow-up is also an integral part of the approach being offered.

### Farm & Home Management Information Provided

The majority of work in this extension area was done on a one-to-one basis, covering all aspects of farm and home financial management, including farm planning and budgeting, credit, farm transfers, record keeping and analysis, estate planning, income tax, etc..

The Annual Bankers Conference was organized by the Montague District Office to enable agricultural lenders to have a better understanding of farm problems and challenges. The cole crop and dairy commodities were dealt with in detail. Thirty-seven representatives of lending institutions attended.

In addition to individual counselling, 14 presentations were made to over 200 farmers by staff at courses, workshops and conferences on such management topics as Budgeting, Tax Planning, Farm Transfers, Payroll Preparation, Time and Money Management, Bookkeeping & Records, Insurance, Income Tax and Part-Time Farmers, Estate Planning and Financial Management for Beef Producers.

### Commodity Development Incentive Program Major District Activity

The Commodity Development Incentive program is a major activity for District Staff. Statistics for the program are included in the Farm Development Section report.

Staff in each of the Agricultural District offices are responsible for maintaining contacts with farmers in this program by counselling and providing information on projects, assisting with the completion and summarizing of application forms, processing claims, inspections and making regular updates of planned projects completed. Because of the additional projects eligible for funding in 1983 and the ending of the program by March 31, 1984, there has been a great deal of activity in the administration of this program in 1983.

### Farm Organizations Assisted

District office staff worked with farm organizations during the year. Because of the Dairy Producers' discussion on quotas, particular emphasis was given to assistance, as requested, to this group in every district. Staff attended, on request, director and general meetings of the Federation of Agriculture in every district to provide information on extension and other departmental programs.

Other groups, whose work was supported or meetings attended include the West Prince Hereford Association, Prince County Annual Feeder Steer Show and Sale, West Prince Livestock Assembly Cooperative, West Prince Industrial Commission, Tignish Blueberry Cooperative, Artificial Breeding Associations, Cattlemens Association, Farmers Market groups, P.E.I. Junior Farmers Association, Community Schools, Potato Producers' Association and the P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board.

### 4-H Important

Staff worked with 4-H Councils in all districts to assist in the leadership and skill development of 4-H members in P.E.I.

**4-H Statistics — 1983**

| District | Projects Completed | Clubs | Members | Junior Leaders | Senior Leaders |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Souris | 105 | 8 | 150 | 4 | 47 |
| Montague | 135 | 7 | 125 | 10 | 45 |
| Ch'town | 398 | 14 | 385 | 29 | 98 |
| S'side | 277 | 10 | 140 | 19 | 70 |
| West Prince | 108 | 3 | 105 | 11 | 23 |
| | 1023 | 42 | 905 | 73 | 283 |

**Exhibitions Attended**

District office staff assisted with organization, displays, and/or the judging of livestock, crop, 4-H and Home Economics entries at the following exhibitions – Alberton, Egmont Bay, Summerside Livestock Exhibition, Crapaud, Souris, Dundas, Maritime Winter Fair, Atlantic Winter Fair and the Kensington Harvest Festival.

**Career Counselling Provided**

District office staff worked closely with High School Agriculture and Home Economics teachers. Information was provided for teaching, as well as student projects. Six presentations on Careers in Agriculture were given in the West Prince, Summerside and Charlottetown Districts.

**Short Courses Offered**

District staff contributed to the development of P.E.I. Agriculture by organizing and assisting with agricultural courses in all districts in 1983.

Through an agreement with Holland College, two 60-hour welding courses for 21 students and one farm carpentry course for 11 students were held. The District Office staff assisted in these courses through promotion and advertising and the counselling of students in the courses. After successful completion, the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture reimbursed three-quarters of the cost of the course to the student.

**Workshops and Presentations — Agriculture**

A major part of the total extension effort is the organization and carrying out of information workshops on a wide range of machinery, production, management and marketing topics. These events may be sponsored by the Department or presentations and information as part of the educational and policy role of farm organizations.

These topics included livestock care and management, calf rearing, gardening and home landscaping, chemical safety, mastitis control, lamb marketing, new crop potential, tractor safety and first aid, small scale poultry production, sheep health, services of the department, dairy quotas, etc. A total of over 40 presentations were made for close to 1000 people.

**Equipment Rental Available**

Each district office has for loan and for demonstration specialized livestock and crop management equipment. Considerable interest and use was made in 1983 of sow prognosticators, dehorners, soil probes, implant guns, measuring wheels, livestock headgate and scales, direct seeders, cereal and forage moisture meters, etc.

**Home Economics A District Effort**

The focus of the Home Economics effort of the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture is to assist in the development of agriculture and leadership development in the farm community.

Assistance has been given to the Women in Support of Agriculture groups in educational programs and the promotion of agricultural products on a local basis.

Assistance was given in organization and/or presentations of provincial conferences — Farm Business For Farm Women, Young Farmers' Conference, Bankers' Conference and Livestock Week events.

They also provided leadership in the organization and implementation of commodity promotion and education events for adults and children.

District Home Economists organize and carry out the Country Kitchen and Country Corner bi-weekly newspaper releases featuring farm women and promoting farm products through the use of favourite recipes.

**Soil & Crop Improvement Associations Active In Districts**

Soil and Crop Improvement Associations were active in all districts in support of the provincial objectives of improving soils and crop production in Prince Edward Island.

Information meetings, farm tours, competitions and demonstration plots continue to be the main focus of activities.

New types of demonstrations in 1983 were plastic mulches and season extension for vegetables, micro nutrients for potatoes, and continuing emphasis on soil conservation and improved tillage.

In some areas information activities focused on wild oat and ragwort control.

To improve the awareness level of new technology and farm practices, representatives of the Association participated in:

- The Maine Tillage and Conservation Field Day
- The Ontario Soil & Crop Improvement Soil Management Conference
- The National Tillage Conference, Hershey, Pennsylvania

# Rural Development Section

*The Rural Development Section is responsible for the 4-H program, farmer training programs, the training and assessment components of the New Farmer Program, P.E.I. Junior Farmers' Organization, Agricultural Manpower Committee, the coordination of Resource Centres, the administration of Policies No. 1 and No. 2, (assistance to agricultural students) and the Farm Organization Policy.*

### Policies No. 1 and No. 2 Assist Agricultural Study

These grants and training assistance policies to students studying agriculture, veterinary science or education are designed to encourage and permit those who wish to obtain training in the technical and professional aspects of agriculture to do so more easily and to ensure that a continuing supply of trained people are available for extension, agri-business. research, veterinary medicine, teaching and farming.

Under Policy No. 1—Technical and Vocational Agricultural Training Assistance—24 students at Nova Scotia Agricultural College were granted financial assistance covering tuition and living allowance.

Under Policy No. 2—Students engaged in studies leading to an agricultural degree, veterinary medicine degree or a Bachelor of Education in Agriculture were assisted at various institutions:

**B.Sc in Agriculture**

| | |
|---|---|
| Nova Scotia Agricultural College, Truro, N.S. | 20 |
| University of Guelph, Guelph, Ontario | 12 |
| Macdonald College, Ste. Anne de Bellevue, P.Q. | 4 |
| **Veterinary Medicine** | |
| Ontario Veterinary College, Guelph, Ontario | 10 |
| Total: | 46 |

### Farm Machinery Training A Seasonal Service

A total of 150 farmers attended courses on sprayer calibration and the repair and maintenance of haying equipment, grain combines, potato harvesters, as well as plow adjustment, taught by three instructors employed on a part-time basis.

Extension staff continue to observe that the involvement of farmers in organizing a course is essential to success.

This service was coordinated by the Rural Development Section with cooperation from the district agricultural offices.

The training section is active each year in planning and organizing training events and conferences that meet the changing needs of the agricultural community. During 1983, several new programs were developed and found successful by the participants. Below is a list of the major conferences.

### Windbreak Planning Project In Second Year

The Training Coordinator participated in planning a two-day training program for the 12 summer students who were employed to plan and draw farm shelterbelt and windbreak plans.

### A.C.E.E.E.

The Training Coordinator is a member of the Atlantic Provinces Advisory Committee on Economics, Extension and Education. Two new publications prepared were printed and distributed to the four Atlantic Provinces — Managing Farm Labour and Tax Management.

### Training Programs

The Rural Development Section coordinates training programs offered to the farming population either through the district offices or through Holland College, as funded by the Employment and Immigration Commission.

A brochure outlining the training programs available for farm families during the fall of 1983 and winter of 1984 was prepared for each district by the Training Coordinator in cooperation with the Information Section and District Offices. This brochure was mailed to all farm families in each district.

The 1983 Department of Agriculture calendar appeared as a monthly centrefold in CornerPost. Each issue featured a P.E.I. rural organization, including a picture of a leader in that organization. Upcoming training events were listed on the calendar.

| Event | Focus | Attendance |
|---|---|---|
| 4th Farm Business for Farm Women | Farm Management and Personal Development | 110 |
| 5th Young Farmers' Conference | Energy Conservation | 90 |
| 1st Swine Farrowing School For Women | Management | 16 |
| Livestock Days | Production and Marketing | 300 |

**Resource People for Training Programs**

The Rural Development Section funded the costs of 40 out-of-province resource people for various information days and conferences, including: Forage Conference, Calf Raising Workshops, Hoof Trimming Workshops, Season Extension Workshop, Beginning Beekeepers Short Course, Cole Crop Information Day, Controlled Droplet Application Workshop, Beef Cow-Calf Meetings.

**Out-of-Province Conference and Tours Funded**

The Rural Development Section funded part of the cost of sending 61 farmers to various conferences and tours out of the province. These persons were assisted for educational purposes—either for individual training or for information to be brought back to their respective part of the agricultural industry.

**Farm Welding and Farm Carpentry Courses See New Approach**

In cooperation with Holland College, part-time farm welding courses were offered to 12 farmers in Charlottetown and nine farmers in Summerside and a part-time farm carpentry courses to 11 farmers in Summerside. After successful completion of the courses, the Department of Agriculture reimbursed seventy-five percent of the tuition fee paid to Holland College by the participating farmers.

This was a new approach to basic skill training for farmers that proved to be very efficient and successful.

**Commodity Development Incentive Program — Training Component**

One of the components of the Commodity Development Incentive Program is training which is based on the new farmer's skill level as assessed by an experienced farmer. There are 15 tester farmers who assess the new farmers so as to ensure that they have the necessary basic skills to begin farming.

Training programs can be a combination of classroom instruction, short courses, tours, workshops and on-farm counselling.

There was a total of 58 new farmers assessed by 15 tester farmers during 1983.

**Farm Organizations Assistance Policy**

The P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture, the National Farmers' Union and the P.E.I. Junior Farmers' Organization submitted projects for funding under the Farm Organization Assistance Policy, and a total of 13 projects were approved.

**Maritime Farm Certificate Program — Farm Labour Training**

The Prince Edward Island Farm Skills Advisory Committee was set up last spring consisting of the P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture, P.E.I. Junior Farmers' Organization, P.E.I. Department of Agriculture and the Nova Scotia Agricultural College. The duties of the Advisory Committee are to advise the College on criteria for approval of training farmers; to advise on selection of farmers to assist with final evaluation of trainees and to advise on any aspect of the program that will assist in improving the course.

The Advisory Committee has met with C.E.I.C. to discuss funding and has received verbal agreement that year one of this program will be funded under the Institutional Training Program through the Nova Scotia Agricultural College in an arrangement similar to that worked out for the Atlantic Police Academy, Forest Ranger School, etc. Year two of the Maritime Farm Certificate Program would be funded in an agreement similar to that used for vocational and technical training, i.e., the province will be billed by N.S.A.C. for the cost of training.

Advertising for training farmers was carried out in the fall of 1983 and there have been eight applications to date.

**Agricrew Project Assists With Farm Labour**

The P.E.I. Government hired 25 students as part of its Student Employment Creation Program during the summer.

An Agricrew consisted of a crew of five students available to work for farm families for less than five days at rock-picking, fencing, painting, brush-clearing or other work for which the farmer would not normally hire labour.

The cost of the crew was equally shared by the farmer and the P.E.I. Government under its student employment program.

Seventy-eight farmers used Agricrew services.

The program provided farm experience, leadership development and supervisory skills to the crew chiefs and much needed labour to the farm community. The 1983 program was considered to be successful by those who used and participated in the program.

**Resource Centre**

The Farm Centre Resource Centre continued to be used extensively. Films, slide sets, equipment and books were being loaned out every day to home economists and agricultural teachers, to departmental staff and organizations.

Audio-visual equipment is used mainly by department staff as well as members of the commodity boards and farm associates.

During 1983 the cataloguing of books and audio-visual materials according to the Dewey Decimal System was extended from the Farm Centre Resource Centre to the other four Resource Centres. This was accomplished with the cooperation of the Provincial Library.

A catalogue of the audio-visual materials available in the Farm Centre Resource Centre, which was published in March 1983, has received wide circulation and use, particularly among teachers of Home Economics and Agriculture.

The University of Prince Edward Island donated materials for additional Independent Study Courses from the University of Guelph to each Resource Centre and the receipt of these courses was widely publicized to the farm community.

### 4-H

The 4-H Program objectives in Prince Edward Island are:

1. to increase the effectiveness of rural people in group situations by involving them in leadership and personal development programs;
2. to strengthen the total family unit by developing the individual in skills, family relationships, home management and community involvement;
3. to help develop viable farm units through instruction in the skills of management, production and marketing of agricultural products;
4. to increase the appreciation for agricultural problems, conditions and programs by carrying out a public relations program for consumers, agribusiness, legislators, clientele and future clientele.

### 1983 Royal Visit Helped by 4-H

4-H members played a key role in the Royal Visit to Prince Edward Island. 4-H members were invited to participate in events in Montague and Summerside with their biggest involvement being the walk-about at the Charlottetown Research Station. There, 4-H members had a display and 130 members acted as route liners for the walk-about of the Prince and Princess of Wales.

Sixty 4-H members were involved in award trip programs at either the Atlantic, National or International levels during 1983.

### Prince Edward Island 4-H Council

The 4-H Council is now in its tenth year.

At the 1983 Annual Meeting, the Board of Directors held a lively discussion regarding the decision made by the Canadian 4-H Council to allot the 1983 Interprovincial Exchange delegate numbers on the basis of membership.

The Prince Edward Island 4-H Council resolved that unless this membership allotment was withdrawn, Prince Edward Island would not participate in the 1983 Interprovincial Exchange. This resolution was forwarded to the Canadian 4-H Council and while nothing could be changed for 1983, the Canadian 4-H Council entrenched the philosophy of equal provincial allotment in its constitution. Based on this fact, Prince Edward Island participated in the 1983 Interprovincial Exchange.

4-H puts heavy emphasis on participation in district, provincial, Atlantic and national events. These events help provide learning experiences for rural youth in areas such as inter-personal skills, professional development, leadership, effective 4-H participation, and specific agricultural skills. Taking part in these events help develop future leaders in the agricultural community. Below is a list of several such events.

### Program and Travel Awards Given

The Program and Travel Committee is responsible for the Annual $500 Provincial Council Scholarship. It is awarded in June to a deserving 4-H member entering a Post-Secondary Institution. There were ten applicants who wrote the essay and were interviewed. The Scholarship was awarded to Lloyd Dalziel of the Mermaid-Mt. Herbert 4-H Club.

### Easter Beef Show and Sale

Thirty-seven 4-H members showed at the Easter Beef Show. 4-H steers brought good prices per pound, with Paul Godfrey from the North River Rainbow 4-H Club receiving the award for 4-H Champion Steer.

| Event | Focus | Attendance |
|---|---|---|
| Provincial 4-H Camp | Heritage | 105 |
| Leaders Conference | Personal Development | 60 |
| Junior Leaders Conf. | Effective 4-H Work | 50 |
| Steer Seminar | Showmanship & Judging | 100 |
| Provincial Beef Dairy Clipping Demo. | Management Skills | 110 |
| Provincial Livestock Judging Competition | Judging Skills | 22 |
| Rural Youth Fair | 4-H Development | 300 |
| 4-H Day (Maritime Winter Fair) | Competition | 21 |
| U.S. National 4-H Dairy Conference | Learning | 3 |

### Exhibition Book

The 4-H staff produced the Annual Exhibition Book which was sent to all 4-H families. It outlined nine exhibitions that Prince Edward Island 4-H members could enter. In 1983, the Agricultural Committee set up a special committee to produce a standard set of Rules and Regulations for publishing in the 1984 edition. Tapes of the beef and dairy clipping demonstrations are now available. This event was held in co-operation with the P.E.I. Junior Hereford Association.

### Exhibitions Saw Change

The Agricultural Committee and the Home Economics Committee got together to inspire some changes in the Programs of the Provincial Exhibition 4-H Day and the Rural Youth Fair.

Calf classes (the major event) were held in the afternoon whch pleased exhibitors and spectators alike. 1983 was also the first year for the 4-H Barn Competition at the Provincial Exhibition. The prize money was given by the Provincial 4-H Council and was eagerly sought by the 4-H clubs. As a result of this competition, the areas that housed the 4-H calves were a highlight of the exhibition. The 4-H Drop-In Centre was open for six days; manned by 30 members as hosts and hostesses.

### 4-H Provincial Livestock Judging Competition Successful

The competitors judged nine classes—3 beef classes, 3 dairy classes, 1 sheep class and 2 swine classes.

Kent Oakes, Dale Robinson and Stewart Mutch represented Prince Edward Island in November at the Royal Winter Fair at the National Livestock Evaluation Competition.

Overall, the Island team placed first nationally and combined as a team to win the Sheep Shopping Competition and were awarded the Ontario Veterinary Association Trophy for their efforts.

### Agribition 1983 Attended

1983 saw a new project of the Atlantic 4-H Committee. For the past few years, the committee had been receiving good reports on the International 4-H Judging Seminar held each fall at Agribition (Regina, Saskatchewan). The Maritimes received an invitation to send a team of four members. The Maritime Winter Fair provided the funding and our Atlantic 4-H Committee selected the 4-H members from the competition at the Maritime Winter Fair. The team was composed of two 4-H members from Prince Edward Island, and one each from Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

### Atlantic 4-H Committee

The Atlantic 4-H Committee was responsible for four programs this year — the Atlantic 4-H Conference, 4-H Day at the Maritime Winter Fair and the 1983 International 4-H Judging Seminar.

### Interprovincial Exchange

Susan Thompson — Tri-Com 4-H Club — British Columbia
Andrea Doyle — Alberry Plains 4-H Club — Ontario

### Citizenship Seminar

| | |
|---|---|
| Linda Visser | - Uigg-Kinross |
| Heather Ann Matheson | - Wheatley River |
| Tony Arsenault | - Duvar |
| Darlene Corcoran | - Elmsdale |
| Mary Irene Trainor | - Albany |
| Douglas Matheson | - Brooklyn-Heatherdale |

### National 4-H Conference

| | |
|---|---|
| Sandra Seaman | - Springfield |
| Sandra Wall | - New Annan |
| Bernadette Arsenault | - Duvar |
| Mary Ellen Campbell | - Cherrycliffe |
| Cheryl Stevenson | - Pleasant Valley |
| Malcolm MacBeath | - Dunstaffnage-Marshfield |
| Bruce Wood | - Dunstaffnage-Marshfield |
| Debbie Gallant | - Duvar |

### Washington Conference

Caroline Rodgers - Wheatley River

### Canadian National Exhibition Scholarship

Raymond MacKenzie - Millview

### National 4-H Careers Conference

| | |
|---|---|
| Barbara Godfrey | - North River |
| Janet Larsen | - Albany |

### United Kingdom 4-H Exchange

Roddie Milton - North River

### National 4-H Leaders' Conference

| | |
|---|---|
| Janice Ellis | - Elmsdale |
| Mabel Carmichael | - Albany |
| Marina Doiron | - St. Ann's |
| Kay MacIssac | - Souris West |
| Anita McCabe | - Belfast |

### Washington's Leaders' Conference

| | |
|---|---|
| David Younker | - North River |
| Sally MacDonald | - Little Pond |

# Farm Development Section

**Commodity Develoment Incentives Program**

*The Farm Development Section is responsible for the administration of the Commodity Development Incentives Program.*

*The Commodity Development Incentives Program went through a year of change and increased activity.*

*The P.E.I. Federal-Provincial Agriculture Sector Advisory Committee established a four member Ad Hoc Review Committee which has made recommendations to simplify the administration and requirements of the program.* To date action has been taken on all recommendations, the major one being the expansion of the Commodity Specific list of projects to include eight major areas as follows: Feed Handling Systems; Manure Handling Systems; Forage Improvement Systems; Production and Harvesting Aids; Land Management Systems; Calf Housing; Milk Metering Devices; and Grain Dryers.

This action was taken as the result of the Federal-Provincial Joint Advisory Board meeting in February which left it up to the Agricultural Advisory Committee to make these changes to the program. It was also agreed to let farm operators start projects as soon as applied for; this change allowed a number of farmers (16) to have projects approved which were originally rejected.

When the program started, grants to part-time farmers were limited to 5 percent of the total grant. This was changed during the year to allow grants to all approved projects.

The federal agencies took over the funding of warehouses and grading and packaging facilities early in the year. Minor items re grading and packaging were allotted to the province late in 1983.

The Farm Development Sub-Committee held 46 meetings with applications from 492 new operations being handled. Program changes, policy issues and questionable claims are also handled by the committee with the Manager making routine decisions re the above.

The Commodity Development Incentives Program Appeals Board held 15 meetings and handled 145 situations including 16 defaulters, 122 appeals, two forestry proposals and five advisory opinions.

The program has been active with over $3.1 million in new grants approved.

**PHASE III GRANTS PROCESSED**

| **GENERAL GRANTS** | **1983** |
|---|---|
| Number of general claims | 1,110 |
| Total general claims | $1,331,223 |
| Average general claims | $ 1,199 |
| Number of farms claims | 343 |
| Average per farm claimed | $ 3,881 |

| **COMMODITY SPECIFIC GRANTS** | **1983** |
|---|---|
| Number of specific claims | 349 |
| Total specific claims | $659,232 |
| Average specific claims | $ 1,899 |
| Number of farms claimed | 211 |
| Average per farm claimed | $ 3,124 |

C.D.I.P. Sub-Committee Summary of Activities

| | Applicants Approved | Rejections |
|---|---|---|
| District | 1983 | 1983 |
| O'Leary | 68 | 1 |
| Summerside | 189 | 0 |
| Charlottetown | 186 | 4 |
| Montague | 83 | 1 |
| Souris | 37 | 1 |
| Total | 563 | 7 |

# Livestock Section

*The Livestock Section has been involved with all aspects of the industry in 1983. The major emphasis being on increased services and upgrading the productivity and efficiency of our producers. The activities are:*

- *the development of a Quality Forage Information Program to emphasize harvesting at an early stage of growth;*
- *continuing efforts to improve milking systems and to control mastitis in dairy herds across the province;*
- *providing Dairy Herd Analysis Services to meet the objectives of the provincial and national Dairy Milk Recording Committees;*
- *maintenance and development of an effective A.I. service and selection of sires for both the dairy and beef industries;*
- *extension programs emphasizing the management and quality of beef produced in the province;*
- *extension programs emphasizing the efficiency and management of swine produced in P.E.I.;*
- *the initiation of "Livestock Days" in December as a cooperative effort with agri-business to provide a coordinated effort with agri-business to provide a coordinated program of information on the latest production, management and marketing techniques to all livestock producers in the province.*

## Dairy

The staff of the Livestock Section participated in the Departmental Dairy Commodity Team which, in consultation with the industry, proposed a comprehensive dairy policy for P.E.I. The implementation of these policies resulted in the demise of the P.E.I. Milk Market Share Quota Board and the P.E.I. Milk Commission and the formation of a P.E.I. Milk Marketing Commission, the P.E.I. Milk Marketing Board and a Market Share Quota Exchange operated by the Board.

Producers exceeded the 98 per cent M.S.Q. allotment for the 1982-1983 dairy year by 3.9 per cent. For the first four months of 1983-1984 dairy year, production is down from the previous year by 9.6 per cent. Cow numbers are estimated to be down by about 10 per cent due to heavy export sales of heifers and heavy culling of cows to about 21,000 dairy cows.

On December 1, 1983, P.E.I. had 501 industrial producers, 140 fluid producers and 303 cream producers.

## D.H.A.S.

The Dairy Herd Analysis Service provides a very important herd management service for dairy producers, and is serviced by a staff of seven supervisors. The official D.H.A.S. option is recognized by the Canadian Milk Recording Board. In December, 1983 the Dairy Herd Analysis Services had 172 herds and approximately 5,600 cows enrolled. Of these, 49 were of the official option. This was an increase of four official herds from 1982, but a total decline from 198 herds and 6,100 cows in 1982.

The uncertainty of the dairy industry in 1983, the problems of production over quota, and the increase in D.H.A.S. fees has affected these numbers. However, the program becomes more important to each producer as the levels of management and efficiency of production become more critical.

## N.I.P.

The Livestock Section continued to promote the National Identification Program for Grade dairy cattle. In 1983, approximately 620 new animals were enrolled.

## Importation of Breeding Stock

The Department assisted on the importation of 95 head of dairy breeding stock into the province at a cost of $9,565.

The general decrease in dairy cow numbers and a rapid increase in fees since January 1, 1982 from $8.00 to $15.00 per first service has adversely affected the number of breedings in P.E.I. to approximately 18,000 first services in 1983 compared to 20,782 in 1982.

## Extension Efforts

Extension programs to reduce subclinical mastitis and improving milk quality involved farmers, veterinarians, quality control and microbiology staff and milking equipment dealers. These activities include District courses, barn meetings, video presentations, newspaper and magazine stories, radio and tv information and meetings.

## Beef

The Beef Industry in 1983 could be characterized as a year of change with concerns about the availability of killing and processing facilities.

Cattle slaughter at federally inspected plants was up by 3.7 per cent to 23,337 head of P.E.I. origin to December 6, 1983. Calf slaughter was down in these plants to 160 head in 1983.

There were 11,544 cattle slaughtered in provincially inspected slaughterhouses, up 1.4 per cent from last year.

## R.O.P.

In 1983 there were 75 herds enrolled on R.O.P. with 347 bulls and 541 females taken off test in the spring.

The 1983 fall weaning weighings have been completed with an increase in the number of herds on test. As of December, 17 P.E.I. producers started 35 bulls representing six breeds at the Test Station in Nappan.

### Policies

During 1983 the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture bonused 74 bulls at a total assistance of $29,500.00. Assistance of $100 per head was given on 32 registered females imported into the province.

### Extension Activities

Two feeder sales held in Charlottetown and O'Leary were enhanced with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture and the P.E.I. Cattlemens' Association. A feeder sale coordinator was hired to encourage producers to enter properly conditioned cattle in the sales and to have the cattle auctioned in uniform lots re breeding and quality. Although cattle number in these sales were small, the beef steers average 80¢ in the Charlottetown sale and 75¢ in O'Leary, which is a significant improvement.

Other projects worked on during the year included assistance in re-organizing the Beef A.I. Program in the N.B. Unit, establishment of a beef newsletter in cooperation with the P.E.I. Cattlemens' Association, to give production and market information to 475 farmers, beef estrus synchronization programs, beef cattle handling facilities and freezer beef production.

A number of production meetings were held on management of cow-calf operations and Beef Day was held as part of Livestock Week concentrating on the marketing of beef in the Atlantic Provinces and the quality that is necessary to meet the consumer and processors' demands of 1983.

### Swine

Trends in the P.E.I. swine industry continued in 1983 toward larger, more specialized operations. On-farm feed mixing is increasingly popular.

The Swine Commodity Team was involved in a continuing analysis of programs and direction and assisted in the development of proposals related to the marketing and processing of P.E.I. hogs.

Approximately 150,600 hogs were marketed to December 20, 1983. Approximately 20,000 weaner pigs are shipped out of P.E.I. annually.

Declining hog prices, increasing feed prices are the major concerns facing the swine industry at the end of 1983.

### R.O.P.

There are 36 farms participating in the program with 13 probing regularly and selling breeding stock. The remaining 23 probe occasionally, mostly for selecting herd replacements.

### Policies

The Department of Agriculture assisted on the purchase of 245 boars in 1983 and the purchase of 763 gilts.

It is noteworthy that three Quality Swine multiplier herds supplied 47 per cent of the gilts which qualified for assistance. Of the 245 boars purchased, 84.5 per cent (207 head) qualified on the top of the bonus eligibility sheet.

### Extension Activities

Livestock staff emphasize the importance of extension activites by individual producers in each working with both new and established commodity group and organizing training and information meetings, along with tours and demonstrations who have a particular interest in the hog industry. Emphasis is placed on new technology, developments in the industry, production and management. Fact sheets, newsletters, newspaper and magazine stories as well as tv are used to distribute information.

### Sheep

The number of sheep and lambs of P.E.I. origin marketed through federally inspected plans decreased in 1982 by 32 per cent to 328 animals. The majority of lamb marketing has been through the local farmgate sales, the P.E.I. Lamb Co-op, or sold alive. All lamb in 1983 was marketed in the Atlantic Provinces which is a marked contrast to large shipments to Toronto and Montreal several years ago. The P.E.I. Lamb Co-op which has been operating for one and a half years, marketed 500 lambs.

Twenty-seven producers were enrolled on the Sheep Record of Performance Program.

Sixteen rams were bonused under the Ram Bonus Policy which assists on the purchase of superior rams.

Assistance was also paid on 91 ewe lambs under the Ewe Retention Policy. This policy provides assistance to producers who retain extra ewe lambs over the winter.

Compensation was paid to seven producers who lost sheep due to dog attacks.

### Poultry

### Table Egg Production

There was continuing stability in egg production during 1983. Production exceeded local consumption and 43,500 fifteen-dozen boxes were dyed and sold to the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency for processing.

Thirty-three producers are registered with the P.E.I. Egg Marketing Board, representing 120,000 layers. The balance of our quota of 24,000 layers is on farms with less than 300 birds.

All layer egg producer flocks were blood-sampled for mycoplasma gallipaticum and mycoplasma synoviac infections (460 samples).

### Waterfowl Production

The demand for day-old waterfowl is very good from all areas of the Atlantic region and our locally grown and finished waterfowl are in strong demand during the fall season.

### Broiler and Roaster Production

Approximately 200,000 broilers and 60,000 roasters were grown in 1983 which is a significant increase.

New broiler quotas were issued, but no production took place on those quotas.

### Turkey Production

Our turkey production is continuing to grow with all of the increase on small family farms.

A total of approximately 9,000 broiler turkeys and 10,000 heavy turkeys were grown this year. The local demand is strong and a continued modest growth is expected in 1984.

### Other

Assistance and advice was given to the Provincial Marketing Council in planning distribution of our broiler quota and farm calls made to interview prospective producers interested in broiler production.

Five commercial hatchery flocks with a total of 6,600 birds were blood tested for pullorum typhoid disease. No reactors were found.

Assistance was given to the new waterfowl farms and hatchery.

Breeding stock was selected and new stock vaccinated and numerous problems discussed.

The poultry industry generally has enjoyed a prosperous and healthy year in spite of high production costs and increasing feed prices. Markets were competitive but stable and for the aggressive, efficient producer using good management practices, the future is encouraging.

The Department paid assistance under the Draft Horse Improvement policy.

Staff assisted in the formation of a P.E.I. Draft Horse Association.

At the beginning of the 1983 P.E.I. reported 4,906 breeding mink and 5,582 breeding foxes on ranches which is an increase of 25 per cent and 26 per cent respectively.

The Livestock Section was involved in supplying information directly to new ranchers and assisted with the annual "Live Fox and Mink Show", as well as organizing information meetings and demonstrations for fox, mink and chinchilla ranchers.

### Nutrition

The laboratory processed 3,673 feed samples in a one year period plus approximately 300 samples for demonstration plots, etc.

Many recommendations on feeding rates and practices were given out to producers.

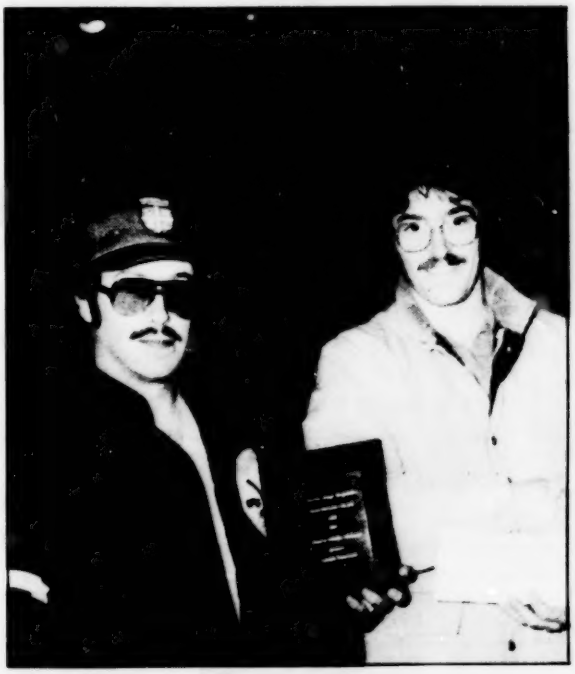
The number of requests for rations based on feed analysis increased over the year. This fact is encouraging because it reflects producers are making better use of results reported. The increase in requests was mainly from the hog sector and can be attributed to some extent to increases in feed prices.

An encouraging trend over the year was consultation requests by feed companies and small feed mills. The nutritionist also plays a major role in information meetings and courses to livestock farmers.

### Quality Forage Program

During June and early July a program emphasizing forage quality was initiated. Its purpose was to produce an awareness of the need to harvest forage crops at an early stage of growth to obtain maximum quality.

Information, based on samples collected across the province and interpreted to indicate the quality of forages at the various stages of cutting as the season progressed, was made available to farm families across the province through radio and newspaper releases. High quality forages allow a considerable economic advantage in producing meat and milk.



### Exhibitions

Staff of the Livestock Section spent considerable time in assisting at the various exhibitions on P.E.I. with the livestock shows, both as judges and clerks. In addition to the regular exhibitions, assistance was given to the Purebred Bird Fanciers Show and the Lives Fox and Mink Show.

Also, the Livestock Section assists P.E.I. exhibitors financially to exhibit at the Maritime Winter Fair or the Atlantic Winter Fair and the Royal Winter Fair.

# Crops Section

*The staff of the Crop Section worked toward providing the most up to date information and services to the farming community; the highlights for 1983 year are:*

- *The Forage Systems for the '80's Conference, which focussed attention on the value and potential of forage crops in P.E.I.;*
- *The annual summer tour which gave farmers an opportunity to view crop and demonstration work on soil conservation now underway;*
- *Work with crop associations in strawberries, apiculture and vegetable production to develop effective demonstration projects in production and season extension techniques;*

Extension work consisted of tobacco greenhouse calls in the spring, tobacco field calls in the summer and fall.

Also, attending many tobacco board meetings and general grower meetings and the tobacco sale.

Assistance was given to the Research Station staff with the tobacco variety trials on 12 tobacco farms. An annual field day was held in early August.

### Tobacco

The 1983 growing season was fairly good; there was no early frost and no major wind storms.

In 1983 there were more acres of tobacco grown — approximately 4,400 more pounds produced nearly 8 million pounds and the greatest dollar value — over 12.5 million, for any year since tobacco was grown on Prince Edward Island.

**Tobacco Production Figures 1980-83**

| Year | No. of Farms | Acres | Production in Lbs. | Average Yield Per Acre | Value In Dollars |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1980 | 72 | 4017 | 4,947,732 | 1231 | $ 6,748,000 |
| 1981 | 68 | 3855 | 6,714,967 | 1741 | 10,296,000 |
| 1982 | 71 | 4126 | 7,394,100 | 1792 | 12,000,000 |
| 1983 | 79 | 4400 | 7,950,000* | 1806* | 12,600,000 |

* These figures are estimates.

### Strawberries

Yields were generally very good. Acreage and total production increased over 1982.

Extension activities included seven newsletters distributed to growers on production, management and marketing topics; grower meetings, field days, on-farm trials and media work.

**Crop Estimates**

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| Acres (fruiting) | | 400 |
| Average Yield | | 4,000 qts./acre |
| Strawberries Marketed | | 1,600,000 qts. |
| | | **Average Price** |
| - Fresh | 44% | $1.10-1.25/qt. |
| - Pick-Your-Own | 44% | $ .55- .65/lb. |
| - Processing | 12% | $ .40/lb. after grading. |

Yields were generally very good. Acreage and total production increased over 1982.

**Lowbush Blueberries**

**Crop Estimates**

The total 1983 crop yield is estimated to have been 750,000 lbs.

Averge Price-

| | |
|---|---|
| To Processors (90% of crop) | $.50—lb. |
| To Fresh (10% of crop) | $.80-1.00—lb. |

Under the blueberry land development grant about 700 acres of land are in development. The Berry Specialist worked with district office staff on field inspections during 1983.

**Apiculture**

**Crop Estimates**

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of Beekeepers | - 200 |
| Number of Bee Colonies | - 1,350 |
| Average Yields | - 95 lbs./hive |
| Total Provincial Crop | - 128,000 lbs. |

Number of Colonies wintered '82/'83 - 230
Number of packages ordered through the P.E.I. Beekeepers' Co-operative:

Early Shipment
753-2 lb., 73 - 3 lb. pkgs., 80 extra queens

Late Shipment
122-2 lb., 29 - 3 lb. pkgs., 16 extra queens
875 102 96

Dry weather reduced the summer honey flow but the fall honey was generally very good. Yields were down slightly from 1982.

Extension activities included five newsletters distributed to growers on production, management and marketing topics. A one-day introductory short course was held in conjunction with the Beekeepers' Co-operative. Honey grading equipment was made available to beekeepers to promote better quality control of honey.

A chief objective in 1983 was to promote the idea of self-sufficiency in bees through increased overwintering and local queen rearing. An excellent opportunity exists for beekeeping with strong overwintered hives to provide pollination services for blueberry growers.

**Apiary Inspection Act Enforced**

Four part-time inspectors were hired in 1983. Samples were also checked by the Provincial Apirist; 110 bee colonies were inspected; seven cases of American Foulbrood were diagnosed and treated. The sale of contaminated equipment remains one of the most serious causes of the spread of disease.

**Raspberries**

There are approximately 20 acres of raspberries with acreage increasing each year. Yields were very good in 1983. Assistance was provided to growers on request.

| Crop Estimates | Approx. | Avg. Price |
|---|---|---|
| Brussel Sprouts | 52 ha (129 a) | .22/lb. |
| Broccoli | 13.7 ha (34 a) | .20/lb. |
| Cauliflower | 21.06 ha (52 a) | .21/lb. |
| Cabbage | 40-48 ha (100-120 a) | .09/lb. |
| Carrots & Parsnips | 60.75 ha (150 a) Carrots | .10/lb. |
| | Parsnips | .20/lb. |
| Rutabagas | 182.25 ha (450 a) | .06/lb. |
| Lettuce | 16 ha (40 a) | $3/Dozen |
| Peas | 182-202 ha (4500-5000 a) | $300/acre |
| Cucumbers | 10 ha (25 a) | .15/lb. |
| Corn | 20.25 ha (50 a) | $1.25/Dozen |
| Onions | 13.4 ha (33 a) | .10/lb. |

### Vegetables

Extension activites included developing a "Cole Crop Production in Prince Edward Island" manual for the cole crop producers and newsletters were distributed to cole crop producers throughout the growing season on production and management topics.

Grower inquiries on insects, diseases, weeds and other crop production problems were answered by staff through regular on-farm visits and other direct contact.

Staff assisted the cole crop producers in seed procurement, transplant production, scheduling, harvesting and marketing.

### Field Trials

Field trials on Season Extension Techniques included evaluation of the use of black plastic mulching, row tunnels and direct seeding under clear plastic on various vegetable crops on P.E.I.

Field trials were conducted to evaluate rutabaga fertilization by banding of source elements.

Field trials to obtain yield samples of established asparagus planting were conducted.

Staff, in cooperation with the P.E.I. Vegetable Growers' Co-operative, carried out carrot cultivar trials, lettuce cultivar trails, rutabaga seed source trials and a trial to determine the effect of various nitrogen fertility levels on rutabaga storability.

### Cranberries

There appears to be good market potential for the "wild" cranberry. Initial contacts were made with people interested in improving existing bogs through weed control and other techniques.

### Tree Fruit

Although the acreage of tree fruits is very limited on P.E.I., there is considerable interest in these crops and a number of small orchards have been planted in the last few years. One newsletter (including questionnaire) was mailed to growers to provide information and establish further contact.

### Home Gardens

In 1983 two summer students were hired to provide home owners with pest management information for vegetables, fruit, lawns and ornamentals. The students were located in Summerside and Charlottetown, and answered a total of 1012 calls.

### Cereals

Yields of cereals were substantially lower than 1982 due to detrimental weather.
Winter cereals overwintered well with good yields reported for both wheat and rye. Fall winter wheat seeding (1983) were much heavier as more farmers are using winter crops to help control erosion and to increase their grain yields. Rye seedings declined slightly as it is a difficult crop to combine.

The Quality Seed Assistance Program was continued with over 500 applications processed under the program.

The Programmed Cereal Management Project was conducted in cooperation with the P.E.I. Soil and Crop Improvement Association, using growth regulators to reduce loading and fungicides to control plant diseases. Supplemental nitrogen was added at various stages of development to evaluate the proper stage of plant development to increase nitrogen to get an economical return in yield.

### Soybeans

The soybean crop reached 500 acres this season with the average yield being about 35 bushels per acre and the top producers achieving 50 bushels per acre.

### Peas

Pea acreage remains low; however, the top producers achieved 50 bushels per acre of peas this season, with the variety Finale.

### Forage Crops

Tame hay acreage remained relatively stable; however, better management practices and a trend to alfalfa and ryegrass species increased the quality and protein content of the forage crop.

New forage varieties with different maturity dates permit programmed harvesting to ensure the total crop is harvested at the optimum stage of development.

A higher percentage of the forage crop is being stored as haylage. Barn driers are used in many operatons to assist in making top quality hay. This practice has been encouraged and assisted through the Commodity Development Incentives Program. The corn silage acreage continued to drop slightly with the 1983 corn crop of excellent maturity and quality.

### Pastures

Farmers are sowing new mixtures of grasses and legumes which give higher yields of higher quality pastures. Both perennial and annual ryegrasses give prolific growth and high protein levels when managed properly. Overall pasture management is improving as farmers manage their pastures more intensively through timed fertilizer applications, better weed control and rotational grazing.

### Direct Seeders

The concept of direct seeding forages was demonstrated extensively with the Brillion Seeders during the past number of years in each district.

### Soil and Crop Improvement Association

Most of the forage and cereals program of the Department are carried out in cooperation with the P.E.I. Soil and Crop Association. The staff of the Crops Section and that of the District offices work closely with the association to provide technical and extension help to insure the projects are successful.

The department staff sample-tested and evaluated the plots from planting to harvest and analysed the results. These results are published and made available to all Soil and Crop members and other farmers who request the information.

### Competitions

Twenty-six hay samples were entered in the 1983 Hay Competition. The top protein level was 18.6 per cent crude protein in alfalfa hay, 3.3 percent lower than last year. The winning samples were displayed at the Association's booth at the Provincial Exhibition.

The Grain Competition attracted 68 entries in the various classes of wheat, oats, barley, mixed grain, peas, winter wheat and winter rye.

Fifteen silage samples were entered in the various classes of the Silage Competition.

One new competition was sponsored this past season. The Soybean Competition was held to permit soybean growers an opportunity to see how their crop yielded. Eighteen entries were received and the crops sampled.

## Engineering Section

*The Engineering Section provides information and programs in farming buildings planning and design, farm machinery extension, soil and water conservation engineering and farm energy conservation.*

*Conservation has become a strong focus of many Engineering programs. Building designs are incorporating energy conserving designs and equipment. Machinery programs are emphasizing Conservation Agriculture — i.e. tillage systems that reduce erosion and conserve energy used by farm tillage operations. As well, the technology of chemical application is rapidly changing with the potential of applying less chemicals, more safely, to crops. An expansion of land drainage programs and continuation of hedgerow and shelterbelt planning and planting continue to emphasize the conservation and improved use of soil and energy on the farm. In addition, the P.E.I.—Canada Farm Energy Project which is coordinated by the Engineering Section is helping to increase an awareness of energy conservation on P.E.I. farms.*

### Farm Building Extension Service

Farm building extension services are provided by the Engineering Supervisor—Farm Buildings Engineer and a draftsman, located in Charlottetown and the District Engineer, located in Summerside, serving Prince County.

Planning assistance and technical information was given to Commodity Days, District Office programs, workshops and farm organizations. The Engineers are also involved with programs relating to the Atlantic Committee on Agricultural Engineering and the Canada Plan Service.

### Potato Storage Main Thrust

The major area of activity in farm buildings was providing information for new potato storage and grading room construction and the design of controlled environment ventilation systems for new and renovated storages.

Detailed construction plans were drafted for 17 new potato storages with environmental control systems included. Also, 16 through-the-pile ventilation systems were designed for renovated storages.

### Dairy Barns

Dairy-related construction included plans drafted for four barns and one heifer housing facility. Plans for dairy calf housing were also in good demand. Several manure transfer systems were installed. These systems were combined with manure storages with concrete bases and earth-banked retaining walls.

### Swine Buildings

Two naturally ventilated hog feeder barns and five sow barns were constructed. This is a new concept with major energy saving features. Six plans were provided for concrete manure storage structures. Several sow barns were upgraded by installing supplemental heating systems and improving the insulation and ventilation. Air to air heat exchangers were also installed in several sow barns.

### General Buildings

Plans were provided for several hay storages, machinery storages, pole barns, beef cattle handling facilities, grain handling systems and other farm structures.

### New Plans Drafted

New plans that were drafted by the draftsman included 18 potato and vegetable structures, 10 swine buildings, eight special structures and one of each — dairy, beef and poultry. Approximately 325 sets of building plans were provided to farms through participation in the Canadian Farm Buildings Plan Service.

### Farm Machinery Extension Program Continues

Projects and major activities include the following areas.

**Information**

The contacts made with P.E.I. farmers continue to be a very important extension method used for disseminating information. During the year approximately 250 individual contacts were made. Several radio tapes and CornerPost articles were prepared on timely topics regarding machinery management. Radio Noon and Window on Resources programs were used to promote new technology in conservation tillage and machinery efficiency. Technical reports, fact sheets and farm demonstrations were also used as information sources.

**Chemical Application Project**

The Farm Machinery Program provided the lead role in organizing a series of four meetings on the Controlled Droplet Application (C.D.A.) of chemicals. Considerable interest was created with over 100 farmers and Agriculture staff in attendance. Demonstration work in this area is continuing.

**Demonstrations and Workshops**

The Farm Machinery Program assisted with the organization and implementation of the Forage Equipment Demonstration at Upton Farm, two chisel plow demonstrations, three Chemical Application (C.D.A.) workshops and sessions at the Young Farmers' Conference (on the subject of energy conservation in field operations).

**Atlantic Farm Mechanization Show**

The Farm Machinery Specialist participated as chairman in the organization and implementation of the 1983 show. This event was the largest and most successful to date with 96 exhibitors and over 21,000 Atlantic farm people attending the show.

**Soil and Water Conservation Program**

Drainage advice for surface and subsurface moisture problems was given to producers by the Soil and Water Engineer, District Engineer and Engineering Technologist. Twenty-seven were done for producers upon request to supplement this advice on moisture problems. Subsurface tile underdrainage was installed on 31 farms by three firms. In addition, engineering and supervisory assistance was given to the Department of Community Affairs for a major drainage program at the Summerside Golf Course.

The Soil and Water Engineer and staff continued to work on a program of outlet identification and trouble shooting on existing drainage systems. Rehabilitation work was supervised on several of these systems with good success.

The Engineer, together with personnel from the Department of Energy and Forestry, supervised a windbreak planning and planting program with support from Department of Industry through the Youth Employment Program. A total of 12 students prepared 81 windbreak and shelterbelt plans planted 76,000 trees.

The Department maintained three subsoilers for use by producers in alleviating drainage and soil compaction problems. Fifty-two farmers used the subsoilers during the year.

The Engineer and staff also gave advice, engineering support and supervision to several Canada Works projects dealing with shoreline erosion projects, in particular at Brudenell and Wightman's Point.

Presentations were made to groups and associations on such topics as drainage, soil conservation, land management and windbreaks. A number of newspaper articles, fact sheets and radio tapes were made on these same topics. Forty-two stream alteration permit applications were handled during the year.

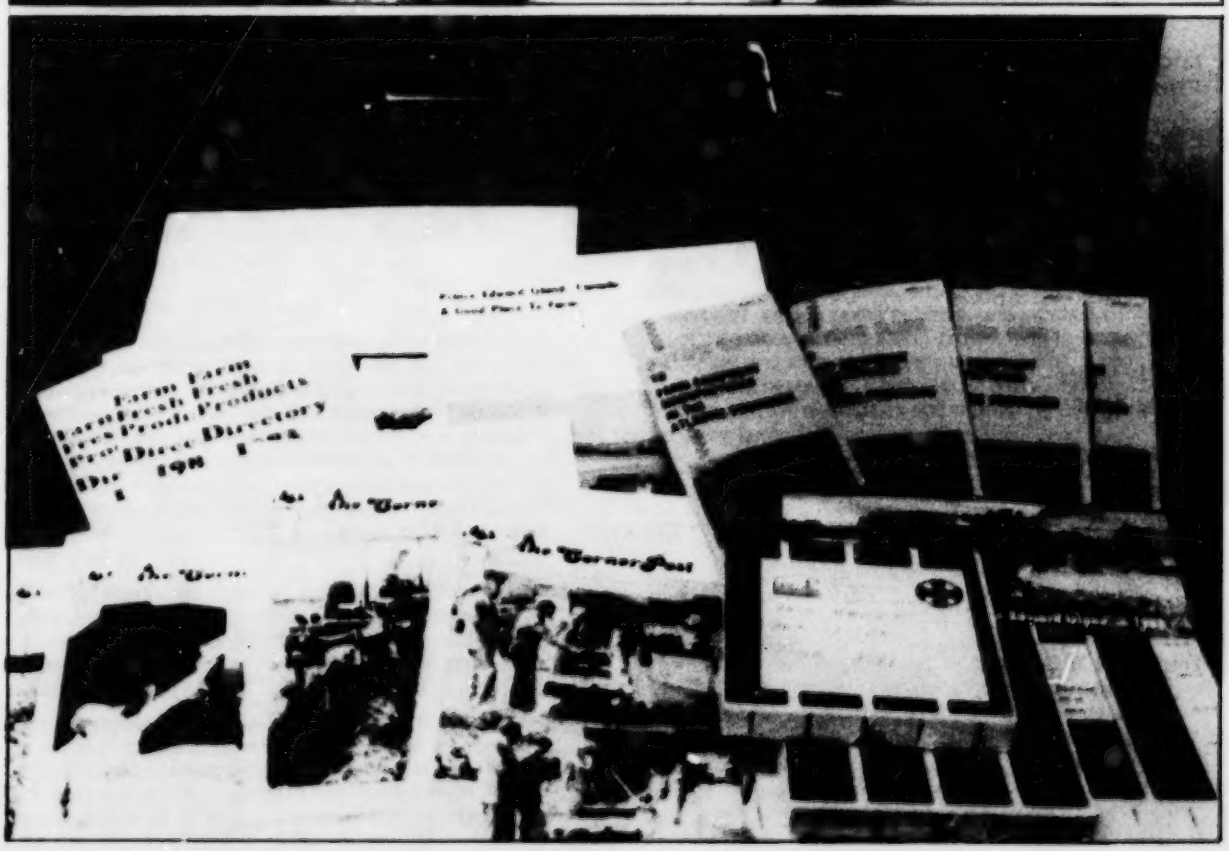
The Soil and Water Engineer represents the Department on the Atlantic Land Improvement Contractors Association (A.L.I.C.A.) Board of Directors. This new organization was formed during the year to provide information and to coordinate the activities of Land Improvement Contractors in the Maritime Provinces.

The Engineer was involved in seven fence disputes, under the Division Fence Act. Forty requests for information about the Act and fencing were handled during the year. Proclamation of the Municipalities Act in November voided the Division Fence Act in all areas of the province covered by the Municipalities Act.

**Farm Energy Conservation Project**

The P.E.I.—Canada Agriculture Energy Conservation Demonstration Program assisted with the installation of 20 on-farm energy conservation demonstration projects. These projects included three different types of wood-fired supplemental heat systems in sow barns, energy efficient ventilation fans in two hog feeder barns, two bulk milk heat exchangers, two tractor performance monitors, two greenhouse projects, one tobacco curing project, two solar water heating projects, one tobacco curing project, two solar water heating projects, air to air heat exchanger and insulated creeps in sow barns, a natural ventilation system in a hog feeder barn, straw mulching equipment for blueberries and monitoring energy use on a dairy farm.

| | West Prince | Summerside | Charlottetown | Souris | Montague |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Office Calls | 1978 | 3579 | 1950 | 1253 | 908 |
| Farm/Home Visits | 1199 | 700 | 750 | 247 | 535 |
| Short Courses | 7 | 11 | 8 | 6 | 1 |
| Attendance | 70 | 128 | 172 | 63 | |
| Farm Tours | 14 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 3 |
| Attendance | 93 | 35 | 10 | 12 | 17 |
| CanFarm Clients | 11 | 4 | 6 | 5 | 11 |
| LDC/PLA Farm Plans | 6 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| FCC Farm Plans | 16 | | 1 | | |
| Telephone | 7596 | 11130 | 5500 | 5419 | 2442 |
| Information Sessions | 19 | 10 | 34 | 17 | 6 |
| Attendance | 308 | 187 | 1134 | 113 | 90 |
| Soil & Crop Members | 100 | 40 | 92 | 56 | 94 |
| Directors Meetings | 1 | 6 | 2 | 5 | 4 |
| Information Meetings | 12 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Attendance | 100 | 35 | 100 | 86 | 128 |
| Crop Tours | 1 | 1 | | | 1 |
| Attendance | 25 | 35 | | | 4 |
| Farm Demonstrations | 6 | 13 | 14 | 7 | 17 |
| Use of Brillion Seeders | 40 | 15 | 13 | 10 | 23 |
| Acres Seeded | 422 | 300 | 201 | 91 | 275.5 |
| Rock Rake | 10 | | | | |
| Acres | 214 | | | | |
| Consumers Requests | 1100 | 1100 | 1700 | 368 | 630 |
| 4-H Camps | 1 | | 1 | | 1 |
| Attendance | 31 | | 20 | | 19 |
| District 4-H Council Meetings | 6 | 12 | 6 | 8 | 7 |



# Information Section

*News of all programs and policies of the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, and extension information was released quickly to the agricultural community through the services of the Information Section. The Section is staffed by the director, information officer and secretary.*

*The Section is responsible for media relations, advertising, daily and weekly farm broadcasts, news releases and a monthly agricultural magazine.*

**Production Services Offered**

The section processed a number of Agri-fact sheets, coordinated the publishing of Atlantic joint publications, processed several publications specifically designed for P.E.I., and advertised their availability.

**Farm News Radio Service**

All private radio stations on P.E.I. carried department programming which includes Farm Report, Focus on Farming, This Week in Farming, W.I. News, Farm & Forest News, Food News, 4-H, Preserving the Harvest, as well as Farm Market Report. These programs provide agricultural news and market information to farm clientele and provide the public with insight into the Island agricultural industry.

**Press Work**

The section provides commodity market reports to the weekly agricultural newspaper, sends out a daily and weekly news package, prepares agricultural features and provides media coverage of Island breeders in exhibitions. It also provides assistance to farm organizations wishing to deal with the media.

**Photography**

Photography services are provided for black and white, color print, and slide production. These services are used to support the department's promotion, teaching and extension programs.

**Advertising**

All advertising of the department is coordinated through the Section.

**Special Projects**

The Section is also responsible for special projects. This includes agricultural brochures, flyers, books, editing and layout, printing co-ordination, slide-tape presentations, promotions' campaigns, and special events planning. Section staff works closely with other Department Branches in assisting and planning specific extension—information efforts of the Department.
The Section also maintains the producers' commodity lists.

Information staff continued to upgrade the Department's publication, Corner Post and are responsible for its editing, lay-out and design. It is provided to 6,500 rural families.

Several publications were re-printed and re-written such as the Department Personnel Directory and P.E.I., A Good Place to Farm.

# Administration Section

*This section processes all of the financial, personnel and administrative transactions of the Department, and prepare the annual budget for submission to Treasury Board. In addition, the Section carries out a monitoring function to ensure that expenditures are made in accordance with the budget.*

The Department's Section consists of two switchboard operators, one at 11 Kent Street and one at the Research Station, a mailman, two Clerks, a management information coordinator and the Director.

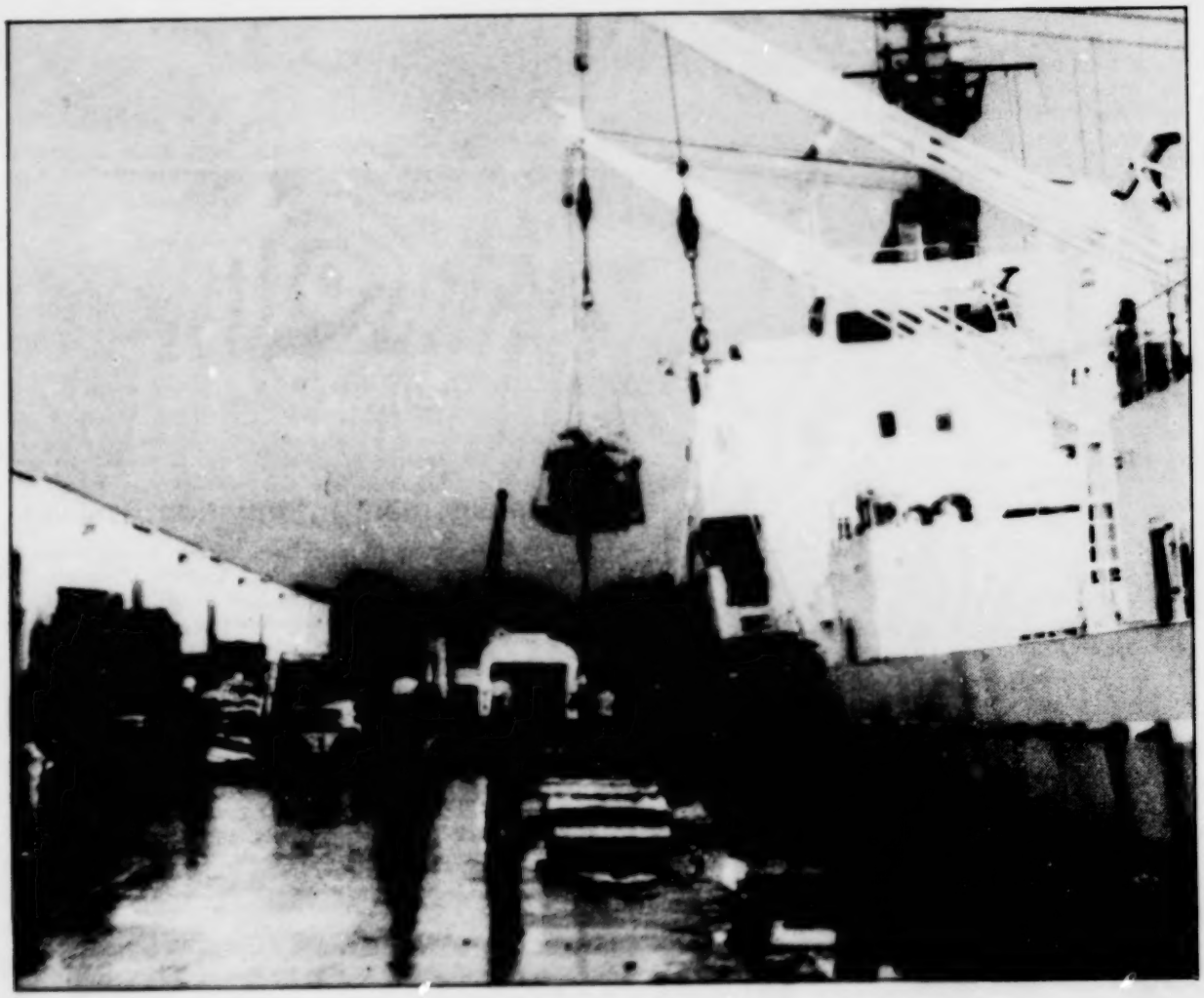
The Administration Section was very active in 1983 in exploring potential uses of micro-computers. The Director heads a departmental Computer Committee which reports to the Branch Directors. The Committee has recommended and received approval for the initial purchase of micro-computers for the Department. This initial purchase will see two micros situated in the Research Station and another situated at the District Office in O'Leary.

## Management Information System

The Management Information Co-ordinator has been kept busy maintaining the Management Information System and responding to approximately 320 ad hoc requests in addition to regular sytem reports which are processed weekly. Although processing phase III grant applications, changes, and claims took considerable time; much time was devoted to the 4-H program, which is beginning its fifth year of computerization; the school milk program, which began three years ago and the Junior Farmer file, which has been computerized for a year.

After working many hours on the Quality Swine Project with the Hog Board, a TRS-80 micro-computer was purchased in November, 1983 and software designed specifically for large swine operation is being tested at the Quality Swine Unit in Grandview.

The Management Information Co-ordinator is now working with the Potato Marketing Board on the best method of computerization for their records.



# Marketing Branch

*The Branch offers marketing assistance, expertise and programs to farm organizations, commodity groups, associations, cooperatives and individuals. In cooperation with other branches within the Department, other government departments and agencies, the Marketing Branch's objectives are to tie together production initiatives to market opportunities, to identify new markets, to provide market research where required, to provide an analysis of marketing opportunities including outlook and forecasting information, and to provide commodity promotion and educational programs. It also provides alternatives for market organization particularly for establishing commodity groups, and to provide a planning and statistical analysis service and it represents the Department on a number of intergovernmental committees, task forces, and working groups where marketing, planning and statistical issues are being discussed.*

### Branch Takes On Planning Role

The Branch assumed responsibility for the development and coordination of the agricultural planning process in 1982. The Planning Secretariat made up of senior departmental staff and chaired by the Branch Director, is responsible for establishing the broad terms of reference for planning and making policy recommendations to the Minister. Two planning officers are attached to the Branch who provide support services to the work plan as determined by the Planning Secretariat. During 1983 a great amount of time was devoted to the planning of agricultural programs for the new agricultural development agreement expected to commence April 1, 1984.

The Branch Director represented the Department on Agriculture Canada's Market Program Committee — the latter was structured to evaluate and make recommendations for projects to be funded under Agriculture Canada's direct delivery effort for marketing.

Canagrex, a federal government crown corporation, became operational in December 1983. The Branch Director was named the departmental representative on the Policy Advisory Committee. Canagrex was established to promote, facilitate and engage in the export of agricultural and food products and services from Canada.

On a regional basis, the director represented the Department on the Atlantic Committee on Food and the Atlantic Committee on Marketing and Distribution The purpose of these committees is to provide a forum for exchanging ideas and for joint action on a number of issues relating to marketing.

Staff from the Marketing Branches of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Newfoundland and P.E.I. meet on an annual basis to share program ideas and for the purpose of promoting cooperation. P.E.I. hosted the 1983 seminar whose theme centered on market education.

The P.E.I. Marketing Council is responsible for the supervision of the activities of commodity marketing boards operating under the National Products Marketing Act. The Branch Director is the Department representative to this eight member council.

The Branch Director was one of five government and industry people named to a "Red Meat Processing Negotiation Team". This team spent numerous hours and days spearheading negotiations on many fronts in an effort to secure a red meat processing facility for the province, necessitated by the announced closure of Canada Packers' plant in Charlottetown. As of December 31, 1983 it can be reported that negotiations, while moving slowly, are positive.

Prince Edward Island hosted the annual meeting of Ministers and Deputy Ministers of Agriculture in July. The Branch Director chaired the Departmental Planning Committee responsible for organizing the total conference. Staff from all branches spent a number of hours in helping to make the Conference a success. The Conference was held at Brudenell, P.E.I.

The following account will highlight on a commodity or project basis, the most significant achievements of 1983.

### Planning

For 1983 the Planning unit has been primarily concerned with the development of a five year agricultural development plan for 1984-89. The Department has made an intensive effort in developing a commodity based draft agricultural development plan. This has required extensive work within the Department and with agricultural industry, both at the organizational and individual level. It has also involved work with Agriculture Canada regarding future joint programming efforts.

There has been analysis of planning evaluation systems in other provinces and this has been integrated into the Department's ongoing planning effort.

The unit has also worked on

- Agricultural projects under the P.E.I.—Canada Development Plan for 1983—84
- Coordinated agricultural planning requirements with Central agencies. (Treasury Board, Policy Board, Intergovernmental Affairs)
- Provided program development for **Small and Limited Resource Farm Development Program.**
- Provided program development effort regarding agricultural energy initiatives such as the **Energy Conservation and Energy Alternatives in Agriculture** project developed and initiated in cooperation with the P.E.I. Energy Corporation.
- Working on developmental stages of other energy projects.
- Serving as Departmental representative on Nfld-P.E.I. **Renewable Resource Agreement** — developing joint resource development ventures.

- Working on behalf of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers Conference regarding development initiatives in appropriate scaled technologies in agriculture.
- Working with U.P.E.I. on Teledon joint agriculture—university computer project.

## Small and Limited Resource Farm Development Program

In 1983 the program has been an on-farm extension service assisting small scale and part-time farm operations. it is primarily a specialized extension service. It emphasizes economic development opportunities specifically designed for small farm operations including appropriate information and technology, management of commodities, record keeping and development of information not available locally. The program also assists groups who wish to cooperate in collective projects and programs.

The resource workers who are working farmers assist small farmers in defining and initiating agricultural opportunities suitable to their operations. They also serve as a vehicle to bring all available and appropriate government goods and services to the farm customers.

There are at present 11 trained agricultural resource workers geographically distributed throughout the province-four in Prince County, five in Queens County, two in Kings County, with an average of 30 farm families each. The caseload is present about 320 farm families.

There are also two new agricultural resource workers providing specific services. One is working closely with blueberry growers, and potential growers, on the establishment and management of the crop and the potential for development. The other person is working with small and medium scale vegetable producers.

Statistical results indicate that small-scale and part-time operators in the province are functioning to a considerable extent in the mainstream commodities.

**Small Farm Program — Statistical Summary**

Number of farms: 320
Presently served

Commodities on farms: 32

| Ages: | 20-30 | 30-40 | 40-50 | 50+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 49 | 91 | 77 | 79 |

| Category of farms: | Full-time | Part-time | Hobby |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 96 | 165 | 35 |

Total 296 (June 1, 1983)

| Size of operation (acres) | 0-10 | 10-50 | 50-100 | 100+ |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 39 | 63 | 99 | 94 |

Farmers with commodities

| Forages | Beef | Grain | Cream | Milk | Forestry | Swine | Self sufficiency |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 167 | 147 | 146 | 27 | 26 | 58 | 48 | 46 |

| Market Garden | Poultry | Vegetables | Sheep | Blueberries | Organic Farming |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 38 | 33 | 30 | 21 | 19 | 18 |

Other commodities include: Strawberries (16); Bees 13; Dairy goats (11); Fur (10); Orchards (8); waterfowl (5); Aquaculture (4).

### Commodity Education and Promotion Rated Very Important

The Commodity Education and Promotion Program is designed to assist Island agricultural groups in the education and the promotion of their products.

The Education and Promotion Program of the Marketing Branch supports two primary objectives:

1) To promote the use and value of agriculturally produced foods and their relationship to overall good eating habits.

2) To educate the consumer on the role of the agricultural industry in the Island economy, the problems and importance of the agriculture producer in the food system and to inform agriculture producers of consumer concerns.

Projects involving all of the agricultural commodity groups and various agencies were conducted within the Marketing budget as a means of fulfilling our second objective. These projects include various radio and press features in local and national publications as well as commodity promotions and workshops.

a) "Food News" — a week day one minute food commentary carried on radio stations CFCY, CHTN and CJRW.

b) "Country Kitchen" and "Country Corner" — bi-weekly newspaper releases with accompanying photographs featuring Island farm women and their on-farm activities.

c) "Canadian Living" insert — the Promotion Specialist coordinated the development of a sixteen page insert. Island visitors information featured Island agricultural and fish recipes and this insert was included in the "Canadian Living" consumer magazine whose circulation numbers 350,000.

d) "Foods Fantastic...From P.E.I." — a consumer workshop consisting of demonstrations, and a tasting party of Island agircultural and fishery products. The workshop, a joint project of all commodity groups and organizations, P.E.I. Market Development Centre, and the Federated Women's Institutes of P.E.I., was co-ordinated by the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture.

### Statistics and Market Information

The Marketing Branch continues to be responsible for the dispersing of market information. The code-a-phone system, which has daily updated information on markets of cattle, hogs, potatoes and other vegetbles and crops, is used very regularly by the farming community. The annual statistics handbook and supplemental statistical sheet were published containing 1982 data as well as Census comparative information. The agricultural market report was published weeky containing current agricultural pricing and sales information.

Marketing staff were involved in compiling a profile of P.E.I. Agriculture with Agriculture Canada for the purpose of preparing for negotiations for the Sub-Agreement. The Branch has been involved in the technology of Remote Sensing for the purposes of using aerial photography for data estimation. The 1983 potato acreage was successfully derived from such a procedure. The Branch participated in a Remote Sensing workshop at U.N.B. and at an information session held in Charlottetown.

### Farmers' Markets

Three new Farmers' Markets were organized in 1983 in Souris, Montague and Wood Islands. The O'Leary-Alberton market was reorganized and is now situated in Bloomfield. Charlottetown and Summerside are ongoing, making a total of 6 markets. All markets reported a successful year in 1983.

Besides working with local farmers' markets Branch staff worked with and helped organize an Atlantic Region Direct Marketing group. This organization's aim is to present and promote the concept of Direct Marketing to local people and tourists and to do it in a regional way. This program includes Market Gardens and Roadside Stands as well as Farmers' Markets. In February 1983 a conference re Direct Marketing was held in Moncton attended by approximately 300 people from the region. This meeting was considered extremely helpful to Direct Marketers.

### School Milk Program

The P.E.I. Department of Agriculture, through the Promotion Specialist, and Montague District Home Economist, is represented on the P.E.I. School Milk Foundation Ltd.

The Foundation administers the School Milk Program on behalf of the dairy producers of the province, the P.E.I. Fluid Milk Processor's Association, the P.E.I. Department of Education and the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture.

There was an approximate 16 per cent increase in the number of servings per student during the 1982-83 school year as compared to the 1981-82 school year.

Emphasizing the School Milk Foundation's objectives of increasing 'milk consumption of elementary and junior high students' and 'helping school children develop lifelong, good eating habits and positive attitudes toward nutrition' efforts in education, research and promotion were continued and diversified. Many projects were carried out to this end by the two school milk co-ordinators with the Department of Agriculture.

### Potatoes Market Search Underway

The Branch facilitated the movement of samples of potatoes to Kuwait and Jordan in an effort to gain acceptance of and demonstrate the high quality of P.E.I. potatoes to these emerging markets.

The Marketing Branch coordinated and drafted the terms of reference for a study of the Potato Marketing Board and the Potato Producers Association. This study was initiated by the Potato Producers Association and covers the legal, historical and functional relationships between the two bodies.

**Grian and Hay**

The Grains Coordinator represented the Department at a number of meetings the majority of which focused upon grain transportation rates including the impact of changes in the Crow Rate, possible changes in Feed Freight Assistance and meetings to look at possible development opportunities in the grain sector.

Preliminary work was begun in the examination of our present hay marketing systems and possible alternative approaches which could be implemented. This will continue in 1984.

**Branch Assists Beef Producers**

Branch staff worked with beef producers in providing information toward the Beswick study of the Maritime beef industry as well as contributing financially to the study.

In cooperation with the Livestock Section, the Branch worked with the beef producers on program development for assistance as a result of extended poor market conditions.

Branch staff represented the Department at four federal-provincial-producer meetings to discuss the design and implementation of a national Red Meat Stabilization Program. This major policy area has still not been finally settled to the satisfaction of government and producers.

**Hog Administration Shared**

The Branch continued to share in the administration of the Hog Stabilization Program with the P.E.I. Hog Commodity Marketing Board. As well, the Branch is responsible for administering government's commitments under the Hog Stabilization Program.

Hog prices declined well below costs of production in 1983 resulting in sizeable payments to producers from the stabilization program.

In addition to the Red Meat Processing Plant Negotiations, branch staff met on numerous occasions with Hog Marketing Board staff and producers to consider options and problems in the processing sector.

The Branch continued to administer the West Prince Transportation subsidy and the provincial hog marketing assistance program to processors.

On the promotional front, the P.E.I. Hog Commodity Marketing Board's programs were successfully active on both a provincial and Maritime basis, with assistance from the Marketing Branch.

In addition, the Branch has assisted in commodity promotions for many of the agricultural associations. This includes designing publications, organizing workshops, in-store demonstrations, consumer research and media work. Following are groups assisted in 1983.

P.E.I. Hog Commodity Board.
P.E.I. Lamb Co-op.
P.E.I. Pork Promoters.
P.E.I. Egg Commodity Board.
P.E.I. Beekeepers Co-op.
P.E.I. Dairy Goat Milk Producers Association.
P.E.I. Cole Crop Growers Association.
P.E.I. Strawberry Growers Association.
P.E.I. Blueberry Marketing Co-op.

The Branch also endeavoured to promote new areas of agricultural productivity where there was potential for long range benefits. Among these were:

A.) Assistance, both financial and technical, was provided to the West Prince Industrial Commission for the development of a tissue culture facility for the production of virus free strawberry plants.

**Cranberries**

B.) A program was implemented to examine market potential of local wild cranberries. The Marketing Branch assisted in the purchase, assembly, grading and marketing of the berries. Berries have been marketed in Newfoundland, Nova Scotia and here on P.E.I., both for retail fresh pack and for processed products like cranberry cocktail.

**Endives**

C.) The Branch worked with a producer of Belgium Endives to introduce his product to buyers in New England and Ontario.

**Marketing Education**

D.) Staff from the Branch made a number of market education presentations and briefings during 1983. Target audiences included high schools, Women's Institutes, exchange students from across Canada, trade commissioners prior to posting abroad and other general interest groups.

## Marketing Council

The Prince Edward Island Marketing Council is constituted under the National Products Marketing Act R.S. P.E.I. 1974 cap. N-2 and is responsible for the supervision of the activities of commodity marketing boards, marketing commissions and commodity marketing groups operating under the Act.

The Marketing Council had an active year with a great deal of activity related to the dairy industry. In June, Council conducted a review of quota administration by the P.E.I. Milk Market Sharing Quota Board. Council found that while there were no irregularities in the administration of market share quota, both the types of records maintained, the system of keeping records and the Board control of quota being issued were inadequate during the period of full quota utilization.

Based on the recommendations of a committee formed by the Dairy Producers' Association, Marketing Council recommended that Executive Council revoke the powers of the P.E.I. Milk Market Sharing Quota Board and the creation of a new Milk Marketing Commission which would serve both the previous functions of the Board and of the Milk Commission.

The new Commission was formed on August 1 but after a series of producer meetings and several studies by the industry and independents, it was determined that producers wished to have a producer board operating their industry. In September, Marketing Council recommended the creation of a Provisional Milk Marketing Board to run the affairs of the industry until such time as elections could be held.

Council continued in 1983 to conduct the business of the P.E.I. Poultry Meats Commodity Board.

Council heard seven milk related appeals in 1983. Council found in favour of the appellants in three cases and in favour of the Board of Commission in four cases.

J.M. Sandham, general manager of the Marketing Council retired from service in June 1983 and was replaced by Paul Jelley. Mr. Sandham has since been named by Executive Council as a member of the Marketing Council.

Marketing Council also assisted the P.E.I. Tobacco Commodity Marketing Board in preparations and discussions related to a national agency for tobacco as proposed by Ontario.

Council joined with the P.E.I. Egg Commodity Marketing Board as an intervenor in an appeal by the Ontario signatories to the egg agreement against a decision of the Canadian Egg Marketing Agency to reduce quotas in 1984 by five percent. Ontario objected to P.E.I., N.B., and Nfld., being permitted to avoid the cutback and producer in excess of full base. The National Farm Products Marketing Council ruled that the five percent cutback was necessary and that the three eastern provinces should endure the same cutback as other provinces. This matter continues to be under negotiation.

The Tobacco Board is currently involved in discussions towards the establishment of a supply management program in the province. Council expects that it will be conducting a plebiscite for the Board early in 1984.

## Milk Commission Undergoes Changes

The Milk Commission, as outlined under the Milk Act, provides for the control and regulation of the production and marketing of milk within Prince Edward Island.

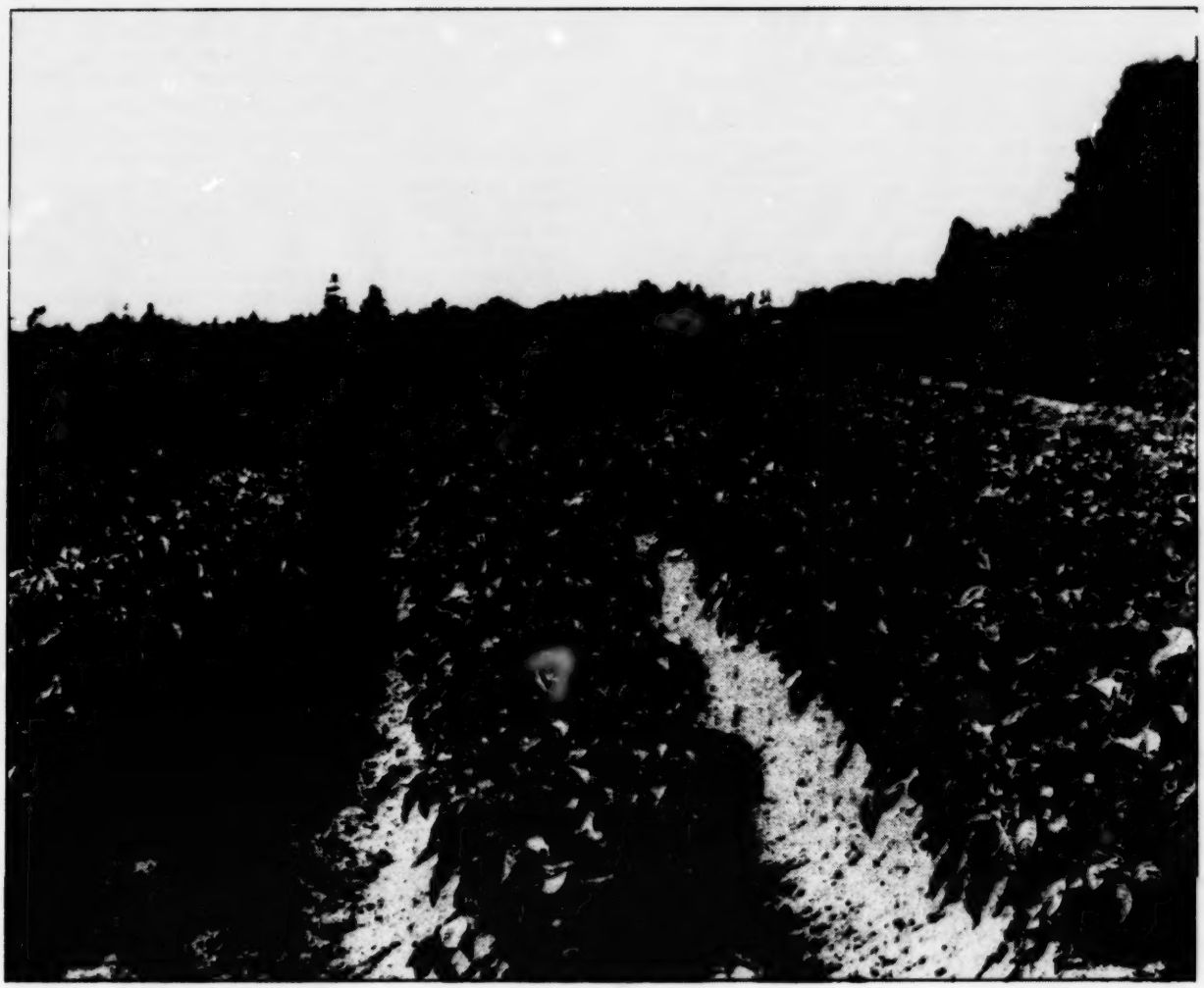
In February, the offices of the Commission and the Market Sharing Quota Board were amalgamated. The combined staffs resulted in more efficient administration and improved communication with the industry.

In June, Agriculture Minister Prowse Chappell announced the implementation of the Ten Point Dairy Plan resulting in a complete restructuring of the industry. Both the Milk Commission and the Quota Board were replaced with a new Milk Marketing Commission, under the Natural Products Marketing Act. The Marketing Commission, consisting of the same personnel as the former Commission, were then responsible for implementation of the plan including a revised marketing system for producers.

During September, following district meetings with producers and discussions with other interested industry people, it became evident that producers were indicating a strong desire to administer their own industry. Following Commission consultation with the Minister, a Provisional Milk Marketing Board, consisting of dairy producers, was appointed. Effective in November, the Commission empowered this body, as its agent, to carry out most of the functions of the Ten Point Dairy Plan.

In addition to twelve regular meetings, the Commission held discussions with the Dairy Producers' Association, National Farmers Union, Fluid processors' Association, industrial milk plants, various departments of Government, the Deputy Minister and the Minister of Agriculture. The Commission also continued a close liaison with the Canadian Dairy Commission, the Atlantic Dairy Council and other Maritime Milk Commissions. Administration of the Class I Milk Pool continued and $40,000 was distributed to farm separated cream producers under the Cream Producers' Assistance Program.

At the close of the year, following regular meetings, the duties retained by the Milk Marketing Commission include Class I Milk producer and consumer pricing, bulk milk transportation rates, licensing, audits and accumulation of production and sales data.



# Plant Industry Branch

*The Branch is responsible for providing farmers with technical advisory services in selective areas of crop production, land management, and related requirements. However, the main thrust of Branch activities deals with the potato industry, the mainstay of the agricultural economy. Essential services required by potato farmers to keep ahead in this highly competitive business are provided by the Potato Services Section. Examples of these services include: Disinfection of equipment, inspection of certified seed after planting, ring rot clean up, cull burial, disease and weed control, and making available to potato farmers up-to-date information on potato production and specifically, the technology of increased productivity.*

The Branch, in response to the need of the potato industry, has initiated the disinfection of all potato transport trucks entering the province at Borden and Wood Islands in order to protect against entry of diseases, especially ring rot, from outside sources.

The Director of the Branch has completed a six-month leave of absence in Jordan to promote P.E.I. potatoes and other agricultural goods. During this assignment, a total of 28 traders in seed and table potatoes were presented with a promotional package of information on P.E.I. agriculture as well as a sample of P.E.I. seed potatoes, (Kennebec and Netted Gems). These contacts have their business in many countries in the Middle East, including Jordan, Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, U.A.E., and Oman. Officials of the Departments of Agriculture in Jordan, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and U.A.E. were visited to discuss how P.E.I. can best benefit from future trade with these countries. As a result of these consultations, the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan has agreed to grant P.E.I. the same level of cooperation which it usually accords friendly countries with which Jordan has been trading for many years, including the Netherlands, Denmark, and England. An agreement was arrived at in principle whereby the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture and the potato industry will provide the Ministry of Agriculture in Jordan with a sample container of seed potatoes of certain varieties for testing by a group of 40 top Jordanian farmers. After this trial, the Ministry will decide in light of the results obtained to include P.E.I. (Canadian) seed potatoes in their importation list. A container loaded with 20 metric tonnes of Kennebec, Norchip, Nipigon has been shipped to Amman, Jordan. This project has been implemented jointly by a P.E.I. exporter, Island Shipping Co., the P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board, and the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture. This initiative may assist the potato industry in gaining a new market in Jordan which buys approximately 3,500 metric tonnes of seed potatoes and 40,000 metric tonnes of table potatoes for consumption per year. A list of all potato trade contacts of Jordan and the Middle East has been distributed to all elements of the potato trade in Prince Edward Island.

A significant development in our trade relations with Algeria took place when Algerian officials visited our province in November of 1983 by invitation of the P.E.I. Minister of Agriculture to meet with leaders of the potato industry and observe the potential of this province for supplying Algeria with increased amounts of table and seed potatoes. Since the Algerian visitors represented the Algerian Office of Vegetables and Fruits (O.F.L.A.), they entered into negotations with members of our potato industry to export 50,000 to 100,000 metric tonnes of table potatoes per year from this province to Algeria. They expressed their desire to arrive at a long term protocol of trade whereby Algeria buys potatoes from Prince Edward Island and the province facilitates and assists the entry of certain Algerian products into P.E.I. and Canada. Eligible Algerian products in this type of agreement listed in order of priority include dates (industrial and table), oranges, orange concentrates, and wine.

Strong demands have been placed on P.E.I. seed and table potatoes from Europe, South America, North Africa, the Caribbean, and the Middle East. The growth of certain seed potato markets, including Spain, Cuba, Algeria, and Italy has been a credit to the team work of the Government of Canada, the Province of Prince Edward Island and the potato industry in Prince Edward Island.

The Branch participated with the potato industry and the Government of Canada in discussions which are aimed at developing a plan to maintain a back up variety propagation system to provide the potato trade with adequate virus-free seed from varieties which have proven commerical value, but which are not propagated, for reasons of space and disease control requirements at the Fox Island Elite Seed Farm. This type of back up system has proven to be most valuable in also keeping reserve germ plasm for varieties which are grown at Fox Island Elite Seed Farm. The Director of the Branch has been requested to chair a government—industry committee to consider the merits of the back up system and come up with a plan to set one up on a permanent basis for the propagation of varieties which have potential economic value to the P.E.I. potato trade.

An active extension program was developed in coordination with the Information Section and initiated by the Potato Section last summer to inform potato growers of practices, measures, and developments significant to the potato industry.

The Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory continued its work in securing up-to-date technical means and data interpretation relating to soil testing and feed analysis. One important new service urgently needed by potato and tobacco growers, has been introduced in the form of plant tissue analysis and soil micronutrient testing. This new service enables our potato and tobacco farmers to make better use of the analysis to make up for deficien-

cies in minor or major elements identified as limiting the growth and yields of their crops.

The Branch placed more emphasis on supplying available information on noxious weeds to farmers. The problems of wild oats and tansy ragwort received much attention in the past year.

Soil information was forwarded at the request of farmers and maps were made of farms in accordance with soil properties and other information to develop parts of land management advisory plans which are supplied to interested farmers. The level of awareness among farmers to keep and improve the land resources has been high as exemplified by the increasing number of farmers requesting soil information.

Aerial spraying received different levels of attention from across the province. Measures are being implemented to increase the flow of information to the concerned public and to receive their concerns as well as cut down on hazardous practices in aerial spraying. These measures include public hearings, and the request that pilots present valid flying licenses issued by the Department of Transport before being approved for aerial spraying.

The Community Pastures program made higher net gains this year than last year because of improved conditions of the pastures and animals. The financing of this project is not yet self-supporting.

Following are activities of different Branch Programs in detail:

## Potato Industry Services

*The Plant Disease Eradication Act Regulations requires that all potato crops of more than 0.1 hectares grown in Prince Edward Island be planted with Certified Seed. These crops are to be registered with either Federal or Provincial authorities and may receive inspection at any time to determine the presence of disease.*

Inspection of all tablestock operations was again carried out in 1983. It was determined that 84 growers produced a total of 1204.1 hectares of uncertified potatoes.

A total of 2641.0 hectares of tablestock potatoes were grown on seed potato operations in addition to the 22,666.7 hectares entered for crop certification.

The total 1983 potato crop, produced by 798 Island growers and recorded by the Federal and Provincial inspection staffs, amounts to 26,530.2 hectares (65,556 acres). Approximately 85.5 per cent of the total potato acreage was entered for seed certification and 78.1 passed as Certified Seed. Of the total crop entered for seed certification, 91.4 per cent passed, 1.5 per cent was withdrawn for early market sales, and 7.1 per cent was rejected for not meeting the required standards. Six varieties account for 97.4 per cent of the total potato acreage planted on Prince Edward Island and 13 varieties account for 99.4 per cent of the acreage.

| VARIETY | HECTARES | ACRES |
|---|---|---|
| Russet Burbank | 11,793.3 | 9,142 |
| Kennebec | 6,648.0 | 16,428 |
| Superior | 2,936.0 | 7,255 |
| Sebago | 2,823.9 | 6,978 |
| Shepody | 1,083.2 | 2,677 |
| Red Pontiac | 551.7 | 1,363 |
| Green Mountain | 131.3 | 324 |
| Atlantic | 111.1 | 275 |
| Chieftain | 87.1 | 215 |
| Bintje | 78.0 | 193 |
| Norchip | 45.0 | 111 |
| BelRus | 44.9 | 111 |
| Irish Cobbler | 40.4 | 100 |

### Florida Test Shows Potato Disease Level

The Florida Test is a post-harvest test of seed potato samples which provides advance information on virus diseases and varietal mixtures in growers' certified lots which may be planted the following season. It is now a requirement in many American states in their crop certification programs, and is a requirement in some areas where Canadian seed potatoes are shipped.

In recent years, all Elite and Foundation seed potato growers on the Island have been required, each Fall, to provide representative samples of their crops, consisting of at least 400 small uniform tubers, for a Florida Test in Florida.

Samples from 792 Island growers' seed lots were shipped to Florida from the 1982 potato crop. 500 samples produced a clean reading; 270 others were within the accepted standards for the class; while 13 lots dropped one class, but were still acceptable as certified seed. Only nine lots were unacceptable on account of having over three per cent virus. One lot of Kennebec had between three and four per cent Leaf Roll. The other eight lots were either Green Mountain or Shepody variety. Only one lot had over five per cent virus.

In order to familiarize the potato industry with the value and scope of the Florida Test program, the Potato Industry Services of the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture proposed to assist four potato producers to tour the Florida Test plots during the time readings are taken in January. The Potato Producers' Association, the Potato Marketing Board and the Elite Growers Association were enthusiastic about the proposal and provided our names of growers who had agreed to participate.

### Extension Plant Pathology

The extension plant pathologist came on in September. A diagnostic laboratory for the identification of bacterial and fungal diseases has been established. This laboratory was stocked with the necessary chemicals needed to carry out specific laboratory tests. This facility has been used to determine the casual agents of a number of potato diseases and diseases of other crops such as brussel sprouts, peas, liliac trees, carrots and onions.

The pathologist was involved in determining the bacteria count in the washwater of the water bath at the new potato processing plant in Albany. The rate of chlorine, added to the waterbath, was increased in order to control the spread of bacteria which was causing soft rot breakdown. Some other disease that have been identified this fall were Rhizoctonia, Bacterial black rot, Pink rot, black leg, fusarium, dry rot, and phoma pocket rot. Several lots of potatoes were tested for Bacterial Ring Rot and a confirmation of the result was done by the Federal Plant Quarantine laboratory.

## Potato Industry Services Section

### Potato and Disease Control Program

The disease control efforts of the P.E.I. Department of Agriculture have been most successful. Great strides have been made towards completely eliminating bacterial ring rot from P.E.I. The disinfection staff carried out operations as requested by potato growers and trade in accordance with the requirements and instruction of the Federal and Provincial Potato Inspector. The main thrust of the program is to sanitize potato farms and trade outlets against disease infection, and to thoroughly disinfect all machinery and storages in contact with ring rot. The program strives towards preventing disease from crossing our border from outside sources. To this end, the Plant Industry Branch has developed plans in cooperation with the transport trade for the disinfection of all potato transport trucks.

### Bacterial Ring Rot Situation Minimal

A ring rot survey revealed that we had four infections in the province which should alert the potato industry and government to the fact that the battle with this disease is difficult and not easily won. However, the level of the disease is minimal which means that it will be cleaned up soon with the continued efforts of the potato farmers, the province and the Government of Canada. Truck disinfection and more rigid control of disposal of culls will help in the clean up of this disease.

The P.E.I. Department of Agricultures' Seed Incentive Program encourages growers, involved in Bacterial Ring Rot, to clean up their operation and purchase Foundation Grade Seed for planting. The Department assists the potato industry through the Cull Burial Program. Adherence to a strict set of guidelines and special approval from the Minister of Agriculture are required before certified seed potatoes, produced outside the Province, can be planted within the Province of Prince Edward Island. All potato producers are required to plant certified seed.

The potato industry, represented by the Potato Producers Association and the Potato Marketing Board, has taken a very active role in putting these control measures in place and enforcing these regulations.

### Cull Burial Program

The Cull Potato Burial Program has been designed to aid in the provision for potato disease control. The program assists potato producers in disease control, through on-farm burial of culls, and significantly reducing the risks of disease organism transport and subsequent crop infestation. The program's has been well received by producers as evidenced by the annual increase in service demand.

In 1983, the Cull Burial Program ran from April 1 to August 15. Apart from the large number of culls, to be buried, there was a large number of "unsold" potatoes which were buried under the program. Approximately 165 farmers availed themselves of the programs service. A total of 30 firms were contracted to carry out cull burial activities. All machinery used by contracters was thoroughly disinfected prior to leaving the disposal site.

### Potato Disinfection Program

This program provides the service of disinfecting equipment to spray clean all potato equipment in order to eliminate disease spreading in the potato industry. In 1983 a total of 14,193 disinfections were carried out on all types of potato equipment. A total of 962 disinfections were carried out at export points to prevent the carrying of contagious diseases into the province.

### Weed and Pest Control Active

This year's major potato pest control program was the Potato Aphid Alert. The program put in operation 62 aphid traps for potato producers on P.E.I. and identified the numbers of green peach aphids, potato aphids, buckthorn aphids, other aphids, leaf hoppers, flea beetles, and tarnished plant bugs. The information was placed in a computer to produce a weekly grower summary report. The Aphid Alert program detected an increase in green peach aphid flights into P.E.I. potato fields this year. The aphid infestations on P.E.I. in most situations were well controlled. Besides aphids on potato crops being a concern this year, the potato flea beetle caused damage to keep the insect under control.

For tansy ragwort control this year, the biological control agent Cinnibar Moth, was collected and relocated at two new sites in prince County (Grand River and Ellerslie).

A total of 1,083 contacts were handled this year in the area of weed and pest management. The nature of the contacts were 70 per cent agriculture related pest problems, and 30 per cent urban related pest problems.

Besides direct contacts with the public, information on pest management was distributed in P.E.I. through the cooperation of the local media, and seminars, Assoc. meetings, hearings and committee reports.

**Agricultural Chemicals Program**

In accordance with the Agricultural Chemicals Act, all pesticides, at wholesale or retail level, must be licensed.

Four license classifications were available to those involved in the sale or application of pesticides in P.E.I.

Public hearings are held yearly to provide a discussion of concerns about the use of agricultural chemicals through the Agricultural Chemicals Advisory Committee.

**Aerial Application**

Only two aerial spraying companies offered their services this past season. However, these two companies, between them, sprayed a total of just over 62,000 acres which is only down 4000 acres from 1982's total of 66,000 acres.

There was a significant decrease in quantity of pesticides applied under the Use Permit System A total of nine Use Permits were issued to aerial applicators for a total of 1,100 acres. Last year showed 15 Use Permits granted for a total of 2,953 acres. The application of herbicides by air was drastically reduced this year, thus contributing to the lower values for 1983.

**Agricultural Chemicals Advisory Committee Active**

The Committee met officially on five occasions during the year.

Two public hearings pertaining to Agricultural chemical use on P.E.I. were held and these hearings were designed to allow private citizens and/or groups to express their concerns regarding the safe and responsible use of agricultural chemicals.

The Chairman, on behalf of the Committee made several recommendations to the Minister with the intent that if acted upon would improve enforcement and administration of the Agricultural Chemicals Act. Other recommendations were added in hopes of improving public relations and education.

The Committee also had a hand in helping the E.P.S. (Atlantic Region) in setting up two studies here on P.E.I. One was the surface water and well water testing for residues of the potato insecticide ALDICARB and the other was the study of non-target drifting of fungicide with respect to aerial vs. ground application.

**Complaint Investigation Leads To Company Suspensions**

During the period from June to September, various complaints were filed, the majority being the non-target drifting associated with aerial application of fungicides. Although a few concerned citizens went to the media to get their idea across to the general public, information from the Department helped clarify the situation. A suspension under the Act was issued to an aerial company in order to stop them from spraying a field in which the people living nearby complained of allergic symptoms with their eyes and nasal passages.

**Information Program Helps**

This year the Plant Industry Branch, in cooperation with the Information Section, produced a series of 1.5 and 3 minute tapings for air play on all radio stations on P.E.I. during the June-September months. This forum was invaluable in getting information concerning proper pesticide handling and disposal methods across to farmers during the time of year in which they would be using them.

In 1983, it was requested that aerial spray pilots provide evidence that they were properly licenced with the Federal Department of Transport before receiving their license renewal.

A workshop on Farm Chemicals was held late in the year to help farmers increase their knowledge of the safe and responsible use of farm chemicals and to help farmers become better prepared to discuss the safety aspects of farm chemicals with non-farmer consumers.

# Land Management Advisory Services Section

### Soil and Feed Testing

*In order to provide a sound basis for making management decisions on fertilizer and liming programs and livestock feeding programs, the Soil and Feed Testing Laboratory supplied analytical services to our farmers. The major program offered was the analysis of soil and feed samples. Analysis of water, plant tissue, manure, greenhouse soil and limestone were also carried out on an "on-request" basis. The extension program in soil fertility management, based on soil test results, was carried out by the Plant Industry Branch through the Soil Chemist. During the year, 5959 soil and 3858 feed samples were analyzed under these programs for P.E.I. farmers.*

**Sample Description**

| | 1983 | 1982 |
|---|---|---|
| Farmer's Soils | 5959 | 5586 |
| Research & Special Project Soils | 2256 | 461 |
| Feeds | 3858 | 4408 |
| Veterinary Pathology | 1480 | 1043 |
| Water Chemistry Analysis | 1397 | 1301 |
| Others | 1278 | 1401 |
| TOTALS | 16228 | 14265 |

Two major developmental initiatives were carried out during the year. The first of these involves a province wide survey of soil and plant tissue levels of major and minor elements for the potato and tobacco crops. This was a more detailed version of a similar project conducted in 1982. These studies will (i) determine the adequacy of major and minor element fertilization programs for these crops and (ii) establish baseline values for minor elements as part of a future plant tissue analysis service. The second initiative was a pilot project to develop a computerized long term record program for individual farms and farm fields. This project was run in conjunction with the soil information and mapping service provided by the Branch. The record system will be evaluated by eight farmers for a two year period.

Laboratory analysis was performed on samples received from the Veterinary Pathology Laboratory, the P.E.I. Soil and Crop Improvement Association, Agriculture Canada, Department of Health, Dept. of Energy and Forestry and the Dept. of Community Affairs.

The majority of water chemistry analysis for the Department of Community Affairs were done by the Soil & Feed Test Laboratory. This year a program was developed for the computer system utilized by the laboratory which enabled water test results to be prepared on reports for direct distribution to the public. This will afford a tremendous time saving for staff of the Department of Community Affairs.

Over 94,000 individual tests or analysis were performed on the 16,228 samples submitted. This represents a 25 percent increase in the workload over that of 1982. Due to this increased activity, the time required to process farmer's samples sometimes exceeded the normal target of 7-14 days, however, delays were not usually excessive.

### Soil Information and Mapping Services

Fifty-one farm properties were mapped under the Farm Resource Mapping Program. Aside from providing soil information to new farm clients, a considerable amount of time was required to fullfill requests for a greater level of resource detail (ie. designs for surface drainage systems, grassed waterways and contour-strip cropping systems) from past clients. There is a growing demand to include, with the normal land resource management package, the capacity to establish and maintain a long range record system. This system would aid in tying the soil information to crop performance information provided by the farmer.

Aside from providing on-site checking of areas for the Resource Mapping Program, and surveying assistance for engineering programs, the Soil and Feed Testing Service assisted with tissue sampling as part of the micro nutrient survey program.

Requests for soils information also came from the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, Department of Education, Department of Finance, other Departments of Agriculture Branches, Holland College, Agriculture Canada and Environment Canada.

The Plant Industry Branch and the P.E.I. Remote Sensing Committee jointly sponsored a one-day Remote Sensing seminar which drew a great deal of interest from farmers, educators, agrologists and the general public. As a result, several remote sensing projects were developed by the Department for approval under the Energy, Mines and Resources Canada Technology Enhancement Program. These projects delt with snow melt and runoff, potato harvest rates, tobacco acreage and blueberry acreage estimates.

Late in the year, the Soil Physicist participated in the design and development of a long-term potato extension project, to evaluate various soil and crop management systems on potato production and land improvement.

Other activities carried by the Soil Information and Mapping section were participating in the work of the Atlantic Advisory Committee on Soil Resource Management, and Soil Survey, evaluating Branch computer needs, providing land management graphics and data to Holland College, assisting the Department of Education in the review of a proposed secondary school soils text, and providing District Offices with land clearing site evaluations.

**Community Pastures**

Most community pastures are established on tracts of land which are unsuitable for annual cultivated crops. They are acquired, developed, and managed under government auspices for the collective grazing of livestock on a rental-fee basis. These large centralized pastures provide not only grazing but also care of livestock and other pasture services.

The main purpose of the Community Pasture is to improve the earning power of the neighbouring farms. It enables the farmer to enlarge his operation or to add beef cattle and dairy cattle to his business.

The areas covered under the Island Community Pasture Program include Lauretta, Central Prince Grasslands, East Prince (Pasture La Roche), Kelly's Cross, and Head of Hillsborough.

There was a 5 per cent increase in cattle numbers using the Community Patures this year.

In 1983 the community pasture supervisor and the staff of the livestock branch and the crop section, worked on plans and procedures to enable the land base to be more productive therefore yielding a higher cash return for the pasture program and the patron as well. The Supervisor was also active attending any meeting which involved community pastures.

| | Community Pastures | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Kelly's Cross | | Wellington | | Head of Hillsboro | | Lauretta | | Ellerslie | |
| | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 | 1982 | 1983 |
| No. of Cattle on pasture | 747 | 800 | 537 | 568 | 125 | 154 | 321 | 362 | 1107 | 1096 |
| Average daily gain (ADG) | 1.42 | 1.49 | 1.04 | 1.58 | .78 | 1.79 | 1.53 | 2.56 | 1.47 | 1.77 |

# Women's Institute

*A cooperative working relationship has existed between the Department of Agriculture and the Women's Institute since its organization in 1913, in the development and delivery of programs to meet the needs of rural Islanders. The Women's Institute Act identifies the terms under which the organization operates.*

### Producer-Consumer Understanding Emphasized

The Women's Institute's program aimed to increase understanding of the agri-food system again operated with the theme, "From Farm to Table". The activities of the project were targeted at two main groups — children in Grade III, and adult food shoppers.

For the children, a coloring book on Island agriculture was printed in both English and French and distributed to all Grade III students. Suggestions for supplementary classroom activities were provided for teachers, as well as copies of a coloring poster featuring Island products.

Food shoppers were the main target of project activities. Radio ads promoted agriculture during an eight-day period. Interviews related to the topic were carried on regular radio programming. CBC television carried a panel discussion of the theme, "Food — at what Cost". Panelists included a producer, a processor-wholesaler, a retail representative, a consumer representative, and a committee member. A Home economist visited 13 centers with a two-hour information session—demonstration featuring Island foods. The workshops were attended by approximately 500 people. The third in a series of major Island food promotion events was held in Kings County with approximately 250 people attending. The event was sponsored jointly by Women's Institute, Department of Agriculture and Market Development Centre.

### Food Preservation Information Service Rates Highly

Between July and October, the Women's Institute sponsored a food preservation information service with the support of the Department of Agriculture. Daily radio information programs were sponsored on Island radio stations. A Home Economist was available via a toll-free telephone number. Requests were received from over 500 callers. The service was evaluated through a random sampling of users with 95 percent of respondents recommending the service be continued.

### Program Library Maintained

The Women's Insitute Board of Directors develops and maintains a library of study packages which are available on loan to Women's Institute branches to assist in presenting the educational portion of their activities. During 1983, 14 topics were available. The Library recorded 341 loans to reach an approximate audience of 5,115 women.

### Leadership and Personal Development Continues

Women's Institute continued to use workshops to develop leadership skills among their members and leaders. A series of workshops held in late October and early November in various locations provided information sessions on both leadership skills and general issues. The amalgamation of traditional leadership training with information sessions was a pilot project. Present evaluation indicates that the combined program was not as effective as past programs when the two areas of training were offered separately.

The animal workshop for officers and leaders of the convention areas was held in February. Sessions on parliamentary procedure and other skills helpful in planning local conventions were part of the agenda.

A two-day seminar and workshop for the newly elected Board of Directors focused on the development of personal strength as a basic link in being effective board members. Sessions on program planning outlined the programs planned for the coming year.

### Conventions

The Provincial Convention hosted the major celebration of 70 years of Women's Institute in the province. The total attendance for the two days of business and study was 550.

### Provincial Exhibition Has Good Participation

Approximately 300 Islanders competed in the 1983 Handcrafts and Arts Division of the Provincial Exhibition. This annual event, sponsored by the Women's Institute, provides an opportunity for competition and display of high quality workmanship. The Women's Institute Building was the centre for approximately 120 volunteers during Country Days and the Provincial Exhibition.

### Other Activities

Jayne Toombs, a 3rd year student at Mount Saint Vincent University was the 1983 winner of the **Helen Herring Scholarship** awarded to a student entering the final year of a program leading to a degree in home economics.

The **Woman of the Year Award** was co-sponsored by the Summerside Lobster Carnival and Women's Institute. The Award recognizes outstanding contributions by Island women in home and community. Francis Jones of Pownal was the 1983 winner. Runners-up were Louise Marchbank of Traveller's Rest and Grace MacCallum of Carleton.

The annual **roadside cleanup** was spearheaded by Women's Institute groups in an effort to increase public awareness of litter as an environmental problem. The roadside cleanup was one of the activities during Environment Week.

The year included many special recognitions of the **70th anniversary,** with special publications and branches holding special celebrations at the community level.

# Department of Agriculture
# Financial Statement
# Year Ending March 31, 1983

| | EXPENDITURE | REVENUE (OTHER THAN DEV. PLAN) |
|---|---|---|
| **OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES** | | |
| ADMINISTRATION | 337,843.17 | |
| OPERATIONS | 988.88 | |
| INFORMATION | 142,671.18 | |
| MARKETING | 882,199.66 | |
| HOG STABILIZATION | 473,818.59 | |
| TELIDON | 59,120.00 | |
| OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT SERVICES TOTAL | 1,896,641.48 | |
| **PLANT INDUSTRY SERVICES** | | |
| BRANCH MANAGEMENT | 128,225.19 | |
| LAND RESOURCES (PLAN) | 258,371.73 | 13,500 |
| DISEASE AND WEED CONTROL (PLAN) | 67,779.24 | 315 |
| DISEASE AND WEED CONTROL (NON-PLAN) | 274,557.35 | |
| POTATO DISEASE CONTROL (NON-PLAN) | 255,500.24 | |
| LIMESTONE INCENTIVE | 699,593.10 | |
| SOIL SURVEY | 55,929.35 | |
| LAND MANAGEMENT DEMONSTRATIONS | 22,169.29 | |
| COMMUNITY PASTURE | 261,080.56 | 84,452.42 |
| PLANT INDUSTRY SERVICES TOTAL | 2,023,206.05 | 98,267.42 |

| | EXPENDITURE | REVENUE (OTHER THAN DEV. PLAN) |
|---|---|---|
| **EXTENSION SERVICES** | | |
| BRANCH MANAGEMENT | 67,005.15 | |
| FARM DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS | 1,593,072.58 | 915.00 |
| DISTRICT OFFICES | 771,347.12 | |
| LIVESTOCK SERVICES | 502,172.90 | 22,342.20 |
| CROPS AND ENGINEERING | 226,103.92 | |
| RURAL DEVELOPMENT (PLAN) | 359,879.74 | |
| RURAL DEVELOPMENT (NON-PLAN) | 10,071.15 | |
| AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION | 362,127.00 | |
| NON-PLAN GRANTS | 285,050.85 | 7,125.00 |
| ENGINEERING | 239,721.18 | |
| SMALL-SCALE AND LTD RES FARM DEV PROG. | 195,907.32 | |
| SUMMER STUDENTS | 123.91 | |
| EXTENSION SERVICES TOTAL | 4,612,582.82 | 30,382.20 |
| **VETERINARY AND DAIRY BRANCH** | | |
| BRANCH MANAGEMENT | 185,076.21 | 7,520.84 |
| VETERINARY (PLAN) | 470,160.32 | 94.00 |
| ARTIFICIAL BREEDING (PLAN) | 280,246.00 | |
| MICROBIOLOGY | 105,155.24 | |
| DAIRY | 209,332.46 | 1,313.85 |
| VETERINARY SERVICES (NON-PLAN) | 782,356.93 | 5,081.28 |

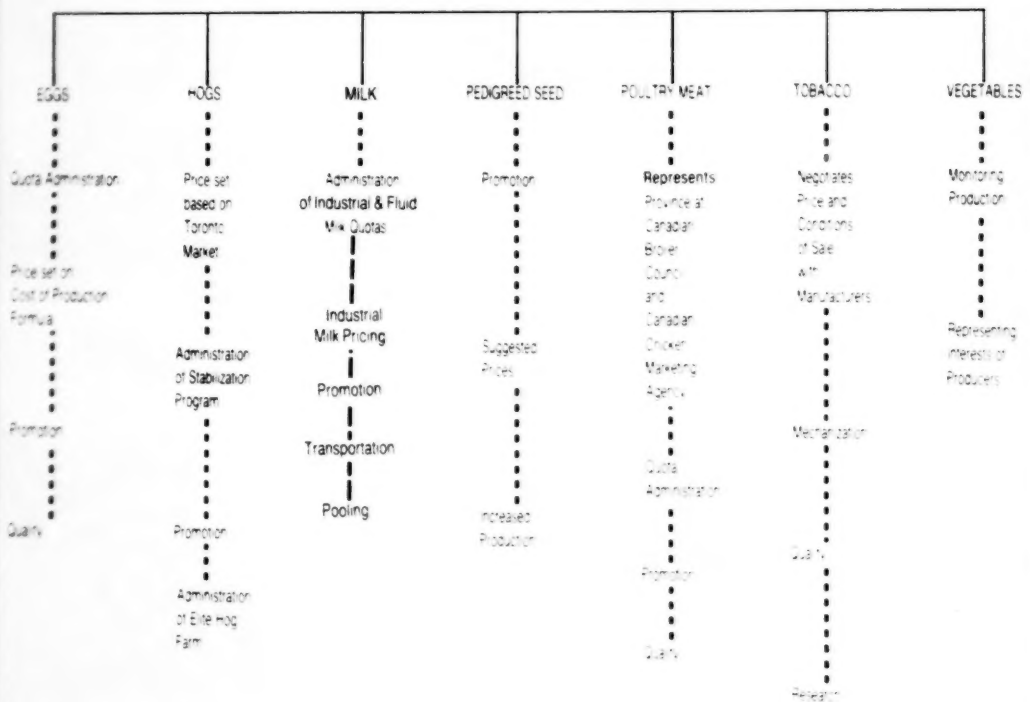
| | 1982-83 |
|---|---|
| P.E.I. Beekeepers Co-op | $ 4,000.00 |
| P.E.I. Hereford Breeders Association | 3,474.00 |
| Maritime Beef Testing Society | 5,000.00 |
| Maritime Ayrshire Breeders Association | 1,280.00 |
| P.E.I. Dairy Goat Association | 1,545.65 |
| P.E.I. Guernsey Breeders Association | 623.00 |
| P.E.I. Holstein-Friesian Breeders Association | 500.00 |
| P.E.I. Jersey Breeders Association | 623.00 |
| P.E.I. Shorthorn Breeders Association | 1,000.00 |
| P.E.I. Cattlemen's Association | 3,500.00 |
| P.E.I. Aberdeen Angus Breeders Association | 656.00 |
| P.E.I. Sheep Breeders Association | 798.25 |
| P.E.I. Purebred Poultry Farmers | 150.00 |
| P.E.I. Rabbit Breeders Association | 200.00 |
| Island Quarter Horse Association | 4,780.00 |
| P.E.I. Standardbreds | 25,323.75 |
| West Prince Women in Support of Agriculture | 800.00 |

Notes: These payments are those support monies which were paid from Grant Accounts. If support was paid from other accounts, they will not be included here. There may also be grants paid to individuals which could also be considered grants to farm groups.

| | |
|---|---|
| P.E.I. Women's Institute | $19,000.00 |
| P.E.I. School Milk Foundation | 60,000.00 |
| Farmers Markets Committee (Ch'town) | 15,000.00 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Farmers Markets Committee (S'side) | 6,800.00 |
| Farmers Market Coop (O'Leary) | 6,000.00 |
| Farmers Market Coop (Souris) | 1,000.00 |
| Farmers Market Coop (Wood Islands) | 1,000.00 |
| Farmers Market Coop (Montague) | 6,000.00 |
| P.E.I. Lamb Coop | 2,000.00 |
| Wild Blueberry Association of North America | 600.00 |
| Potatoes Canada | 50,000.00 |
| Grain Growers Coop Association Ltd. | 2,000.00 |
| P.E.I. Cole Crop Producers Association | 500.00 |
| Canadian Horticultural Council | 1,982.57 |
| P.E.I. Fur Breeders Association | 1,000.00 |
| P.E.I. Vegetable Growers Coop | 10,842.14 |
| University of P.E.I. (Telidon) | 59,120.00 |
| P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board (Seed Incentive Program) | $50,000.00 |
| District 4-H Councils | 4,500.00 |
| P.E.I. Quality Swine (Genetics Development) | 12,384.77 |
| P.E.I. Sheep Breeders Association | 500.00 |
| P.E.I. Soil & Crop Improvement Association | 21,000.00 |
| P.E.I. Blueberry Growers Association | 1,500.00 |
| P.E.I. Tobacco Commodity Marketing Board | 3,000.00 |
| P.E.I. Junior Farmers Organization | 10,450.00 |
| P.E.I. 4-H Council | 21,300.00 |
| P.E.I. Federation of Agriculture | 62,701.50 |
| National Farmers Union | 12,909.59 |

## PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND MARKETING COUNCIL
## NATURAL PRODUCTS MARKETING ACT RSPEI '74 N-2
## COMMODITY BOARDS, COMMISSION AND COMMODITY GROUPS




**Commodity Group**
P.E.I. Cattlemen's Association

Promotion and
Administration Levy (voluntary)

CONTACT + P.E.I. Marketing Council (P.R. Jelley) 892-4101

POOR

QUALITY

ORIGINAL